



GRAMPIAN
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Keeping our communities safe

COMMITTEE: GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD

DATE: 2 SEPTEMBER 2011

TITLE OF REPORT: ABERDEEN BID

REPORT NUMBER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the Grampian Joint Police Board of the successful vote to set up an Aberdeen BID.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note that Grampian Police voted to support the successful Aberdeen BID.
- 2.2 To note that Grampian Police will investigate opportunities to obtain future funding support for city centre initiatives from the Aberdeen BID company.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Under the (BID), businesses with a rateable value of over £27,500, will contribute 1% of their Rateable Value over the next 5 years towards an estimated £4 million fund to invest in Aberdeen City Centre. There is also scope for the BID company to apply for additional monies from third parties - Scottish Government, Enterprise companies, European Funding etc.
- 3.2 Grampian Police has a qualifying commercial property in the city centre comprising of the Queen Street Headquarters.
- 3.3 While the rateable value of Queen Steet has recently been reduced, on appeal, from £815,000 to £790,000, the BID charge for Queen Street over a 5 year period will be approximately £40,000.
- 3.4 It is it is hoped that future applications by Grampian Police for funding from the BID company, in relation to themes such as Safety and security, will be successful.

4. SERVICE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 4.1 The Vision of the Aberdeen BID is to make the City Centre one of the most vibrant, prosperous and attractive in Northern Europe.

- 4.2 The BID will deliver over £4 million of additional investment under identified themes in the city centre over the next 5 years.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 N/A

6. REPORT

- 6.1 A Business Improvement District (BID) delivers a sustainable financial model to a defined geographical area of a town, city, commercial district or tourism and visitor area. BIDs are developed, managed and paid for by the business sector by means of a compulsory BID levy, which the businesses within the proposed BID area must vote in favour of before the BID can be established. Each business liable to contribute to the BID will be able to vote on whether or not the BID goes ahead.
- 6.2 There are ten existing BIDs established in Scotland (including in Elgin and Inverness) with a further eighteen in development (including the Aberdeen BID). A BID is not a substitute for central or local government investment, but an additional investment to strengthen the local economy and give local businesses a unified voice, helping to provide an arena for businesses and local authorities to increase their understanding of each others priorities.
- 6.3 Voting forms were received by the Force for the proposed setting up of a Business Improvement District (BID) in Aberdeen City Centre. The BID would be run by Aberdeen BID Ltd, a wholly independent, non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee. Under the (BID), businesses with a rateable value of over £27,500, will contribute 1% of their Rateable Value over the next 5 years towards an estimated £4 million fund to invest in Aberdeen City Centre.
- 6.4 Businesses within the proposed BID area determine the issues and decide how their money will be spent. In relation to the proposed Aberdeen BID, feedback from workshops held in March 2009 and the survey of the 660 plus businesses within the BID area, conducted in November and December 2009, have identified suggestions on how to improve the business performance and environment. These initial five themes of the Aberdeen BID funding are as follows:
- Theme 1 - Marketing and promoting-including advertisement campaigns, web development, encouraging and promoting festivals (5 Year Budget - £1,900,000)
 - Theme 2 - Safety and Security - Ensuring welcome city centre presence-ambassadors and pastors, integrating elements of the "Safer Aberdeen" projects and discounted members costs (5 Year Budget - £750,000)
 - Theme 3 - Improve Accessibility - including ensuring traffic & pedestrian way finder signs are of a sufficient quality (5 Year Budget - £450,000)

- Theme 4 - Enhancing ongoing projects delivered by the Council - e.g. Intervention schemes to protect the architectural heritage, empty shop enhancement scheme (5 Year Budget - £450,000)
- Theme 5 - Mechanism for Improved Business Lobbying - providing data to encourage new investment (5 Year Budget - £150,000)

6.5 It is hoped that the levy payments can be used to lever in additional funding from other parties including:

- a) the Scottish Government;
- b) other statutory authorities;
- c) trust and grant funding bodies;
- d) European funding.

6.6 Aberdeen City Council have been supporting the Aberdeen BID, including initial financial support towards the BID Project Director and support staff. The BID is also supported by Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Futures and Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce.

6.7 Voting slips for the BID require were issued to qualifying city centre businesses (which included Grampian Police) and a ballot date set for 4 August 2011. Grampian Police voted to support the Aberdeen BID and the BID has subsequently been supported by city centre businesses by a 62.5% vote.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

Chief Constable
23 August 2011