



Northumberland

County Council

ASHINGTON AND BLYTH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

DATE: 12TH SEPTEMBER 2018

BLYTH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Report of Paul Johnston, Executive Director of Place

Cabinet Member: Councillor Richard Wearmouth, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development

Purpose of report

To provide Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council (LAC) with an update regarding the development of Blyth Business Improvement District (BID) proposals.

A presentation will be provided at the meeting regarding the development of the Blyth BID proposal from a representative of the Blyth pre BID Steering Group (the group established by Blyth Development Trust to lead the development of the BID proposals).

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- note the report and the presentation provided.
- Provide comments prior to NCC considering the BID proposals at Cabinet on 9th October 2018. The proposed ballot of eligible businesses is currently planned to take place during a four week period ending on 29th November 2018.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the following priorities included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2013-2017:

- **Economic Growth** – our aim is to promote a more prosperous county through sustainable economic growth that provides residents with ready access to high wage and skilled jobs and opportunities to create thriving businesses.
- **Places and Environment** – our aim is to maintain and further improve the quality of towns, villages and countryside, and make it easier for residents to access services and high quality affordable homes and to travel using different modes of transport

Key issues

1. BIDs are business led partnerships created through a ballot process to deliver additional services to local businesses. Government states they can be a powerful tool for directly involving local businesses in local activities and allow the business community, local authorities and other key partners such as the Police to work together to improve the local trading environment. At the LAC Meeting on 15th November 2017 members received a presentation from the Blyth BID proposer and a full NCC briefing regarding BIDs, an updated version of which is included in Annex 1 of this report for information.
2. The BID proposer committed to providing a further presentation of their proposals to the LAC prior to the proposals seeking cabinet approval and proceeding to ballot.
3. The BID Proposer (Blyth Development Trust) via the Pre BID Steering Group are currently finalising their proposals and working with the Local Authority to develop supporting documents. The current drafts of the Business Plan (Prospectus), Baseline Services Agreement and Articles of Association for the BID Company (subject to the ballot) are being finalised and will be posted online ahead of the ballot period. The BID proposer will provide an up to date presentation on the proposals to the meeting of the LAC.
4. The proposals, once finalised will be considered and validated by NCC cabinet in terms of adhering to legislative requirements. The BID proposals will then proceed to a minimum four week postal ballot where businesses will ultimately decide whether to introduce the scheme. The current timeline is for Cabinet to receive the proposals on 9th October 2018 and for the Ballot to take place for four weeks with the ballot closing on 29th November 2018.
5. The draft Blyth BID Business Plan will confirm the details of the current proposals which are developed under the priority themes of:
 - Enterprising and Dynamic
 - Bright and Appealing
 - Marketing and Promoting
 - Safe and Welcoming

The Business Plan will confirm the levy rules for the Blyth BID, this includes the following proposals:

- The projects will be funded by a compulsory BID levy of 1.5% of the rateable value of all eligible hereditaments. There may be some exemptions such as a local charity exemption noted in the plan.
- The plan sets out the geography and streets within the BID area, which is the town centre of Blyth and includes circa 494 eligible properties.
- The income of the BID from the levy above is projected to be £136,000 in the first year totalling £684,000 over the five years of the

BIDs operation.

- Properties with a rateable value of less than £3,000 will be exempt from the levy in the proposals.
 - Subject to a successful ballot the BID proposer will confirm in its proposals plans to establish the BID Board responsible for the BID Company's operations shortly after the ballot via an open and transparent appointment process.
6. Comments from the LAC will be taken account of prior to the final Business Plan being presented to Cabinet in October 2018 prior to the ballot. A synopsis of the Business Plan will be circulated at least 42 days ahead of the ballot to the business community and will be posted online at this point. The ballot is currently scheduled to take place in November 2018, a postal ballot which will run for four weeks. Subject to a successful ballot the BID will begin operating from April 2019.

1. Blyth BID Proposals

2.1 Background

Blyth Development Trust has taken a leading role in developing initiatives to boost the town's prosperity since starting out as the Blyth Town Team in September 2012, and evolving into the Development Trust in September 2015. This included the development of the Blyth Coastal Community Team and the first Blyth Economic Plan. The Plan identified the opportunity to propose and develop a Business Improvement District. This led to the Development Trust undertaking a basic feasibility study and applying to British BIDs for loan funding to develop a full BID proposal to take to ballot.

The Blyth pre BID Steering Group, made up of volunteers from the local business community has been established by the Development Trust to lead the development of proposals.

As part of the Blyth application to British BIDs, NCC confirmed that it will undertake its statutorily required role in the project and has provided advice regarding the work undertaken to date, having previously confirmed a policy commitment to supporting BIDs as mentioned in this report.

The Development Trust submitted an application to British BIDs in February 2017. The application was successful and the loan offer and agreement was confirmed in July 2017. This means that the Development Trust is the 'Blyth BID Proposer'. The Development Trust has established a pre BID Steering Group involving local businesses to lead the development of the BID proposal.

The BID has now completed the feasibility stage of its development and is currently finalising the consultation and local authority planning stages on planning the development of the BID prior to ballot.

2.2 Blyth BID Proposal Development

During the development period, the BID proposer has undertaken several key consultations and engagement activities to inform the development of the BID proposal and business plan. These include:

- Development of a BID steering group, in September 2017
- Appointment of a qualified BID project manager
- A planned, multi channel approach to stakeholder engagement using a variety of techniques and methods (January to July 2018)
- Door to door visits to almost 500 business premises to explain the BID concept, gather perspectives and leave contact details for those who were unavailable (January 2018).
- 500 BID leaflets, including a comments form were delivered by hand (January

2018).

- Drop in event, publicised in the leaflet on 22nd January 2018, visited by 12 business owners and landlords.
- Creation and development of a dedicated website www.blythbid.co.uk
- Use of regional press and radio
- Use of social media; Twitter and Facebook
- Door to door and online survey of 495 business premises (February 2018) completed by 87 ratepayers.
- Survey results published and circulated in local newsletter in April 2018.
- Open meeting 14th May 2018 attended by 28 local business people.

The BID proposer has developed their proposals based on feedback from this process.

2.3 Blyth BID Proposals

A draft Business Plan and associated Articles of association for the BID Company as well as a baseline services document are being developed and will be posted online prior to the ballot. The documents are currently being refined to ensure they align with a draft operating agreement between the BID and NCC which will be posted alongside the Business Plan for the ballot. The operating agreement establishes the approach to levy collection services as described in the Business Plan.

The key points regarding the current proposals are:

- Enterprising and dynamic
 - To encourage new enterprise and improve the viability of trading in the town centre
 - A new Blyth means business pop-up shop initiative
 - A new savings and support scheme taking advantage of joint procurement to save on costs of operating a business in the BID
- Bright and Appealing
 - To improve customer experience in the town centre by creating a bright and appealing environment for customers
 - Practical measures to make the town centre more attractive for people to visit delivered in two parts:
 - Flags, banners and street dressing, and flower displays to add colour.
 - LED illuminations to brighten up the town centre (e.g. Xmas, Halloween or special events).
- Marketing and Promoting
 - To market and promote Blyth town centre and all it has to offer to local residents and visitors during the daytime and evenings
 - A comprehensive multi-media campaign to publicise and promote the shops and services in Blyth town centre
- Safe and Welcoming
 - To work together to ensure the town centre is a safe and welcoming

- place for workers, customers and visitors
- The Blyth BID will provide modest levels of support to encourage joint action with existing partnerships working closely with Northumbria Police and private security.
- The projects will be funded by a compulsory BID levy of 1.5% of the rateable value of all eligible hereditaments. There may be some exemptions such as a local charity exemption as noted in the business plan, and an exemption for those businesses with a rateable value of less than £3,000.
- The plan sets out the geography and streets within the BID area, which is the town centre of Blyth and includes circa 494 eligible properties.
- The income of the BID from the levy above will be around £136,000 in the first year.
- Subject to a successful ballot the BID proposer has confirmed in its proposals plans to establish the BID Board responsible for the BID Company's operations shortly after the ballot via an open and transparent appointment process.

The detail against each of the above points will be set out in the documents which will be published online in October 2018.

2.4 NCC position regarding Blyth BID

Approval of the Proposals

The County Council has been engaged as a stakeholder in the development of the Blyth Business Improvement District (BID) Proposal throughout the stages of development required by Government.

We understand from the draft proposals that the BID will be a town centre focused BID with a 1.5% levy charge for all eligible businesses in the town centre and that the BID will be an open and transparent organisation establishing a new Board from the outset and delivering a set of focused projects which have been developed in consultation with traders.

The County Council is required to consider, as a matter of procedure whether the BID proposal can be approved to proceed to ballot prior to ultimately the businesses subject to the levy deciding whether to introduce the scheme through the ballot. Following comments by the Local Area Council, approval of the Business Plan to proceed to ballot will be considered by Cabinet on 9th October 2018.

Undertaking the BID ballot and operational arrangements subject to a successful ballot

The County Councils role is to ensure that the BID Proposer meets legislative requirements, to operate the ballot of local companies and to work with the BID proposer to draft the operational arrangements for the company subject to the ballot.

Once established the Council will undertake levy collection services for Blyth BID and will charge a fee (tbc upon establishment of BID) for this service. Recommended industry standard is a maximum charge of £35/hereditament or 3% of annual levy income, whichever is the lower.

2.5 Next Steps

The BID Proposer is now finalising and consulting on its proposals and working with the Local Authority to develop supporting documents, then a final business plan will be produced for consideration and validation as having met legislative requirements by NCC cabinet prior to the ballot taking place. This is planned for Cabinet on 9th October 2018.

The ballot is scheduled to take place over a four week period ending on 29th November 2018, a postal ballot which will run for four weeks. A summary of the final business plan will be sent to all businesses during October, ahead of the ballot process, and will also be available in full online. Subject to a successful Ballot the BID will be established in April 2019 to operate for up to five years.

Implications

<p>Policy</p>	<p>BIDs are supported by Government policy and legislation as set out in the Business Improvement Districts Regulations 2004. As part of the Portas Review of Town Centres Government established a £500,000 loan fund to assist the development of BIDs.</p> <p>The NCC policy framework supports the development of BIDs led by the local business community. This includes previous reports to Cabinet in July 2014 and the Northumberland Economic Strategy.</p>
<p>Finance and value for money</p>	<p>Prior to the ballot,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assistance to the Blyth BID proposer from NCC is in kind and statutorily required. - The development costs are funded by the British BIDs loan although NCC must cover the costs of the ballot. - As part of the service baselines, additional services may be proposed by the BID or the BID may propose to operate services currently undertaken by NCC (on a full cost recovery basis) which may benefit or improve

	<p>existing services to benefit Blyth whilst also operating in a more effective and efficient way.</p> <p>Subject to a successful ballot,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NCC is able to charge a reasonable fee for levy collection services to recover costs. NCC has confirmed it will charge a fee of either £35 per hereditament or 3% of the levy income whichever is the lowest (tbc upon establishment of BID) - Dependent on the final proposals NCC properties and those of its subsidiaries including Arch and Active Northumberland that fall within the BID boundary and levy rules will be subject to the levy charge.
Legal	Should the ballot vote be in favour, an operating agreement is entered into between parties setting out how levy collection services will be provided to the BID company.
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	Eligible NCC properties and those of its subsidiaries including Arch and Active Northumberland will be subject to the levy dependant on the final levy rules and geography of the BID established in the Business Plan. The presentation from the BID proposer will outline the current proposals.
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Risk Assessment	None
Crime & Disorder	Tackling crime and disorder is a popular measure for BIDs, for instance shop security schemes etc. Blyth BID have identified this as an issue in there Business Plan.
Customer Consideration	Levy Collection Services follow the same procedures as billing, collection and enforcement requirements are set out in the Non-Domestic Rating (Collection and Enforcement) (Local Lists) Regulations 1989.
Carbon reduction	Carbon reduction measures can form part of BID proposals, for instance in seeking to reduce costs for businesses related to this issue in terms of waste. This is for the Blyth BID Proposer to consider.
Wards	TBC dependent on the final geographical coverage of the BID which is the town centre of Blyth .

Consultation

Blyth BID is subject to a detailed process of consultation as required by British BIDs following legislative requirements.

Background papers

NCC Reports

- Northumberland Economic Strategy 2015-2020
<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Business/Economic-Strategy-full-2015-2020.pdf>
- Minutes of County Council meetings with regard to Business Improvement Districts are available at:
<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Councillors/Meetings.aspx#committeemeetings>
 - Policy Board Minutes 10th June 2014
http://committeedocs.northumberland.gov.uk/MeetingDocs/7072_M1033.pdf
 - Economic Prosperity & Strategic Services Overview And Scrutiny Committee Minutes 24th June 2014
http://committeedocs.northumberland.gov.uk/MeetingDocs/7873_M1037.pdf

National Legislation and Guidance

- Government Guidance www.gov.uk/guidance/business-improvement-districts
- British BIDs Industry Criteria and Guidance 2018
https://cdn.britishbids.info/publications/BRITISH-BIDS-NATIONAL-BID-CRITERIA-DOC_2018.pdf?mtime=20180227104019
- The Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004
www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/2443/contents/made

Blyth BID and associated documents

- Blyth BID Facebook Page <https://en-gb.facebook.com/bidblyth/>
- Blyth BID webpage <http://blythbid.co.uk/>

Report sign off

Finance Officer	AE
Monitoring Officer/Legal	LH
Human Resources	N/A
Procurement	N/A
I.T.	N/A
Executive Director (Paul Johnston)	PJ
Portfolio Holder (Cllr Richard Wearmouth)	RW

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Annex 1: Business Improvement Districts Briefing (BIDs)

(Updated August 2018)

Purpose of Report

The report provides a briefing regarding national legislation and guidance regarding Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and background regarding the development of Blyth BID.

Key Issues

1. BIDs are business led partnerships created through a ballot process to deliver additional services to local businesses. Government states they can be a powerful tool for directly involving local businesses in local activities and allow the business community, local authorities and other key partners such as the Police to work together to improve the local trading environment.
2. There are around 300 active BIDs nationally with over 25 new BIDs brought into existence in the last year.
3. The principle of establishing BIDs in Northumberland is supported within the NCC Policy Framework, where local business groups bring forward proposals. In Blyth's case, the development of a BID has previously been identified in the towns Coastal Community Team Economic Plan.
4. There are a number of BIDs in the North East and Cumbria operating successfully such as in Penrith, Barrow, Stockton, Newcastle Upon Tyne. In Northumberland the first BID began operating in Hexham in October 2016 following a successful ballot announced in February 2016. Following a series of operational and governance challenges the Hexham BID Board issued a termination notice in August 2018 and this process is now being undertaken. Morpeth BID was developed during 2017 but was not successful at ballot earlier this year. Blyth is the third BID to be proposed in Northumberland launching its development process in July 2017.
5. A BID is a defined area in which a levy is charged on all business rate payers in addition to the business rates bill. This levy is used to develop and deliver projects which will benefit businesses in the local area. Unlike business rates the levy is held locally by the BID for use in the specific location. Businesses that are subject to the levy, as set out in the proposals, vote in a ballot. This determines whether the scheme goes ahead.
6. Whilst all BIDs are subject to the same legislative guidelines, the proposals and Business Plan for any individual place should reflect the circumstances of that community and the issues it faces. This includes the thematic priorities and levy rules that will be proposed.
7. The BID proposer (in Blyth's case this is Blyth Development Trust) is required to develop a proposal and submit this to the local authority, along with a business plan. Blyth Development Trust have established a pre BID Steering Group made

up of volunteers from the local business community. Their role is to lead the development of the BID proposals prior to the ballot using a wide range of engagement and consultation activities.

8. In Northumberland, NCCs approach has been to assist and facilitate the processes required when BID proposals are brought forward by local businesses ensuring that local growth is driven by local partners. NCC has a range of statutory responsibilities in relation to the development of BID proposals as well as potentially being a levy payer and voter in relation to the Blyth BID. Once established a BID is operated by a BID Company, normally a not for profit company limited by guarantee led by a Board of local levy payers.

1. Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) Policy and Legislation

BIDs are business led partnerships created through a ballot process to deliver additional services to local businesses. The Government states¹ that they can be a powerful tool for directly involving local businesses in local activities and allow the business community, local authorities and other key partners such as the Police to work together to improve the local trading environment.

The development of BIDs is supported by national policy and legislation, principally the Business Improvement District Regulations 2004². There are approximately 300 active BIDs nationally with 25 new BIDs brought into existence in the last year.

There are other BIDs in the North East and Cumbria including Newcastle Upon Tyne, Sunderland, Penrith and Northallerton. There are a wide range of BID types including towns, city centres and industrial areas. More recently tourism and flood defence focused BIDs have been established.

The principle of establishing BIDs in Northumberland is supported, where local business groups bring forward proposals within the NCC Policy Framework following previous reports to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees in 2014³.

Reference to BIDs as an example of local business led growth are also made in the Northumberland Economic Strategy 2015-2020.

¹ www.gov.uk/guidance/business-improvement-districts

² www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/2443/contents/made

³ Minutes of County Council meetings with regard to Business Improvement Districts are available at: www.northumberland.gov.uk/Councillors/Meetings.aspx#committeemeetings

- Policy Board Minutes 10th June 2014 committeedocs.northumberland.gov.uk/MeetingDocs/7072_M1033.pdf
- Economic Prosperity & Strategic Services Overview And Scrutiny Committee Minutes 24th June 2014 committeedocs.northumberland.gov.uk/MeetingDocs/7873_M1037.pdf

There are a number of BIDs in the North East and Cumbria operating successfully such as in Penrith, Barrow, Stockton, Newcastle Upon Tyne. In Northumberland the first BID began operating in Hexham in October 2016 following a successful ballot announced in February 2016. Following a series of operational and governance challenges the Hexham BID Board issued a termination notice in August 2018 and this process is now being undertaken. Morpeth BID was developed during 2017 but was not successful at ballot earlier this year. Blyth is the third BID to be proposed in Northumberland launching its development process in July 2017.

NCC are not aware of any other live proposed BID developments elsewhere in the county. It's important to note that whilst BIDs can be utilised by local communities to drive growth, they are one of a range of options being utilised by partners in Northumberland such as Development Trusts, Coastal Community Teams and other other local growth initiatives.

Whilst all BIDs are subject to the same legislative guidelines, the proposals and Business Plan for any individual place should reflect the circumstances of that community and the issues it faces. This includes the thematic priorities and levy rules that will be proposed.

1.2 What is a Business Improvement District?

A BID is a defined area in which a levy is charged on all business rate payers in addition to the business rates bill. This levy is used to develop projects which will benefit businesses in the local area. Unlike business rates the levy is held locally by the BID for use in the specific location.

There is no limit on what projects or services can be provided through a BID. The only requirement is that it should be something that is in addition to services provided by local authorities.

Improvements may include, but are not limited to, activities such as marketing and promotion, business support, safety / security, cleansing and environmental improvement measures.

1.3 How is a Business Improvement District established?

Legislation allows for a BID to be set up by the local authority, a business rate payer or a person or company whose purpose is to develop the BID area, or that has an interest in the land in the area.

In Northumberland to date, NCCs approach has been to assist and facilitate the processes required when BID proposals are brought forward by local businesses ensuring that local growth is driven by local partners.

British BIDs (the overarching industry body for BIDs) issues annual industry guidance⁴, the latest guidance for 2018 sets out the range of expectations a voter should expect to have of a BID proposal and the process that a BID proposal should go through. The stages of developing a BID are as follows:

- Feasibility
- Planning
- Local Authority
- Campaign
- Establishment

As part of the Portas Review into town centres in October 2013 Government set up a £500,000 competitive loan fund to help communities who wish to create a BID overcome prohibitive initial start-up costs. Hexham BID utilised this funding in 2015 to develop its proposals and the funding has subsequently been repaid. Proposals from Morpeth, which was not successful at ballot (and therefore did not have to repay this funding) and Blyth have been successful in applying for this funding in 2017. The fund is managed on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) by British BIDs, the national umbrella body for BIDs.

1.4 The Business Improvement District proposer

The BID proposer (in Blyth's case this is Blyth Development Trust) is required to develop a proposal and submit this to the local authority, along with a business plan. Blyth Development Trust have established a pre BID Steering Group made up of volunteers from the local business community. Their role is to lead the development of the BID proposals prior to the ballot using a wide range of engagement and consultation activities.

The proposal should set out the services to be provided and the size and scope of the BID. It will also set out who is liable for the levy, the amount of levy to be collected and how it is calculated.

1.5 The ballot

Prior to a BIDs establishment, businesses that are subject to the levy, as set out in the proposals, vote in a ballot. This determines whether the scheme goes ahead. A successful vote is one that has a simple majority both in votes cast and in rateable value of votes cast. Each business entitled to vote in a BID ballot is allowed one vote in respect of each property occupied or (if unoccupied) owned by them in the geographical area of the

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https://cdn.britishbids.info/publications/BRITISH-BIDS-NATIONAL-BID-CRITERIA-DOC_2018.pdf?mtime=20180227104019

BID. Once the BID is in operation the levy is charged on all businesses within the BID area (regardless of whether or how that business voted in the ballot).

1.6 The local authority

As noted in section 1.3, in Northumberland to date, NCCs approach has been to assist and facilitate the processes required when BID proposals are brought forward by local businesses ensuring that local growth is driven by local partners. The Local Authority role is multifaceted regarding BIDs and includes:

- **Information:** NCC is required to provide information to the BID proposer regarding the potential business base.
- **Ballot Holder:** NCC is required to manage and fund the ballot process.
- **Service Baselineing:** NCC, and also other organisations including the Town Council and Police will be required to produce service baselines. The baselines:
 - establish current service levels in Blyth of relevant service areas (e.g. local services, tourism, economic development)
 - Enable the BID proposer to identify additional activity that it wishes to deliver.
 - Are published online and referenced in the BID Business Plan enabling voters to review the information prior to voting.
- **Levy Collection Services:** The local authority is required to manage billing and the collection of the levy and will hold the levy in a ring-fenced revenue account on behalf of the BID body.
 - This funding is then passed to the BID to enable operation.
 - The relationship between the Local Authority and BID is set out in a joint operating agreement, which will be published in draft format alongside the BID proposals.
 - National Guidance states that Local Authorities can charge a reasonable fee for levy collection services⁵.
 - NCC will consider the guidance when reviewing the likely resource costs and will propose arrangements for levy collection services in future.

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https://cdn.britishbids.info/publications/BRITISH-BIDS-NATIONAL-BID-CRITERIA-DOC_2018.pdf?mtime=20180227104019

- **Approval:** If the local authority is of the opinion that the BID arrangements are likely to conflict to a significant extent with an existing policy, place a financial burden on rate payers or the burden from the levy is unjust, it can decide to veto the proposals.
 - The local authority can only veto proposals within 14 days from the date of the ballot.
 - The Local Authority will receive the BID proposals in advance of the ballot and this will be presented to both the LAC and then to Cabinet for approval.
 - There is also an appeal process through DCLG following the ballot should any concerns be raised.

- **Voter** - as a property owner itself NCC is eligible to vote in the ballot and is allowed one vote in respect of each property occupied or (if unoccupied) owned by them in the geographical area of the BID.
 - NCC will be subject to the levy charge as defined by the levy rules set out in the final business plan at the time of the ballot.
 - Guidance indicates⁶ that all Local Authority hereditaments should be included within the BID at full value, however the number should not be such that it may unduly influence any ballot outcome.

- **Levy Payer** - Depending on the final proposals NCC would be subject to the levy charge alongside other businesses.

- **Delivery / Partner** - The BID or Local Authority can propose partnering arrangements on areas of delivery in the business plan. The BID can also propose to operate areas of current responsibility from the Local Authority as long as full costs are also transferred with the transfer of service responsibility.

- **Termination** - The operation of a BID is the responsibility of the BID Board and Company established operating under the relevant legislative requirements and company law. Legislation⁷ sets out that the Local Authority may terminate a BID in limited circumstances following the required consultation process.

1.7 Who pays the levy?

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https://cdn.britishbids.info/publications/BRITISH-BIDS-NATIONAL-BID-CRITERIA-DOC_2018.pdf?mtime=20180227104019

⁷ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/2443/regulation/18/made>

The BID proposal must set out who is liable for the levy, the amount of levy to be collected and how it is calculated. The proposal should also provide details of any relief from the BID levy that may apply and who is eligible. The amount and type of relief is dependant on local circumstances but could typically include charity relief.

The latest British BIDs guidance indicates that the levy rate is only appropriate if it does not exceed 2% of rateable value, even in exceptional circumstances⁸.

1.8 How long will a Business Improvement District last?

The maximum period that a BID levy can be charged is for 5 years. Once the term is completed the BID will automatically cease. If the BID Company wants to continue its activities it must hold a new ballot.

1.9 Who manages the Business Improvement District?

A BID is managed by a BID body. This is often a private company but can be a partnership with the local authority. Most BID bodies are not-for-profit companies and national guidance recommends this model. In Blyth's case a not for profit Company Ltd by Guarantee is proposed. A BID Body is led by a Board of voluntary Directors who must be levy payers.

Following a successful ballot, the BID body is responsible for developing and implementing the proposal which sets out how the BID will operate.

They will provide the local authority with this proposal along with the business plan (including the estimated cash flow, and predicted revenue to be generated by the BID) along with the financial management arrangements for the BID body.

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https://cdn.britishbids.info/publications/BRITISH-BIDS-NATIONAL-BID-CRITERIA-DOC_2018.pdf?mtime=20180227104019