



Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
16 March 2023

ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected: Worthing - Central (Part), Heene (Part) and Selden (Part)

Annual review report on the work of the Worthing BID

Report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability and Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides the Committee with an update on the progress and performance of the Worthing Business Improvement District (BID) to enable the Council to continue to monitor the BID and its value to the Worthing community.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee note the progress and performance of the Worthing BID and question the Worthing Town Centre Manager on any relevant matters connected with this; and
- 2.2 That the Committee consider if it would like to make any recommendations or comments.

3. Context

- 3.1 A BID is a business-led and business-funded body formed to improve a defined commercial area. There is no limit on what projects or services can be provided through a BID, the only requirement is that all services should be additional to those provided by local authorities. Improvements may include, but are not limited to, extra safety/security, cleansing and environmental measures.
- 3.2 Worthing has had a BID since 2008 which is managed by the Worthing Town Centre Initiative and this BID was recently renewed for a fourth term following a successful ballot of local businesses in the BID area to cover the period March 2023- March 2028. The BID has the following objectives:-
- Promoting the Town and its businesses
 - Improving the visual appeal of the Town
 - Delivering a safer more welcoming Town
 - Driving footfall with markets, events and activities
 - Business support and advice
- 3.3 Early in 2022, a scrutiny review was undertaken by a Working Group of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) [Scrutiny review of the Worthing BID](#) which reported its findings and recommendations to JOSC and the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee. The recommendations were supported and the Borough Council agreed to support proposals for the renewal of the BID.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 As part of the recommendations from the scrutiny review, it was agreed that an annual review report on the work of the BID should be presented to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee in order to provide regular updates to the Council on the progress and performance of the BID and work which it is doing to meet its objectives. This will enable the Council to closely monitor the work on an annual basis and assess the value of the BID to the Worthing community, to regularly check on the relationship between the Council and the BID and action change if necessary rather than waiting until the BID is due for renewal ballot again in 2027.
- 4.2 The evidence provided to the scrutiny review highlighted very clearly that there is a good level of support for the Worthing BID and the value which it brings to the Town, however, the scrutiny review wanted to ensure that the

Council should receive regular progress reports on the performance of the BID and its working with the Council to help improve the relationship which had previously been identified as in need of improvement.

- 4.3 Sharon Clarke, Worthing Town Centre Manager, will attend this meeting to provide an update on the work and performance of the BID and how the BID is now working with the Council. A report detailing this information is attached as an Appendix to this report. JOSC will have the opportunity to question Sharon and relevant Officers and consider if it would like to make any recommendations to the Town Centre Initiative, Cabinet Members and/or relevant Council Officers.

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 The JOSC Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and relevant Officers have been consulted on the proposals contained in this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications to consider within this report but the Borough Council is a BID fee payer as a business operating in the BID area.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to do anything to facilitate or which is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of their functions.
- 7.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a Local Authority to do anything that individuals may do (subject to any current restrictions or limitations prescribed in existing legislation).
- 7.3 BIDs are partnerships between a local authority and local businesses through a ballot process to provide services and improvements for the local community. The provision of the services and improvements is funded by a levy, paid by the local business rates payers in addition to non-domestic rates. The Local Government Act 2003 gives the Council the power to approve the formation of a BID and to collect the BID levy that will fund improvements. The Business Improvements District (England) Regulations 2013 sets out the requirements for establishing BIDs.

Background Papers

Report from the JOSOC Working Group - 'Scrutiny review of the Worthing Business Improvement District (BID) and plans for renewal of the BID for 2023 - 2028' - JOSOC 9 June 2022

Report to the Worthing JSC Sub-Committee - 'Worthing Town Centre Business Improvement District - Supporting the fourth term' - 5 July 2022

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Matter considered. The issues contained in the report relate to the BID which aims to improve the town centre economy and increase footfall and spend.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Matter considered. A vibrant town centre with thriving businesses will help improve social value for the communities of Worthing and visitors to the town.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no significant issues identified.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Matter considered. The BID fourth term objectives include a priority to deliver a safer, more welcoming town.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no significant issues identified.

3. Environmental

The report from the JOSC Working Group reviewed the environmental issues connected with the Worthing BID.

4. Governance

Matter considered. The JOSC Working Group was set up in accordance with the JOSC Procedure Rules and formed part of the agreed JOSC Work Programme for 2021/22. Recommendations from the review were reported to JOSC and the Worthing JSC Sub-Committee for consideration. The request for this annual report on the Worthing BID is part of the JOSC Work Programme for 2022/23.