

Extract of Executive Board Minutes relevant to the Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING ON 2 JULY 2015

16	BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS – FUTURE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and the Economy, on a proposal by Halton Chamber of Commerce to take on the management of the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in Astmoor and Halebank Industrial Estates.

The Board was advised that the Local Government Act 2003 allowed partnerships between local authorities and the local business community to set up BIDs, which allow businesses in a specific geographic area to develop a business plan aimed at improving the area.

BIDs schemes in Halton had been very successful with a number of improvements seen over the last seven years, providing a cost effective way for business to work collaboratively to achieve a series of common objectives. The current programme would be operational until 2018, with the Council providing a number of services to the Steering Group and Executive, set out in the report and included:-

- Programme Administration;
- Crime Reduction and Community Safety Initiatives;
- Image Enhancement; and
- Business Support.

It was reported however, that the BIDs Executive Committee had expressed a view that the BID programme could be delivered at a reduced cost by not using the Council as the BID body. A proposal had been received from the Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise to take on the BID body role as a 'Project Management Organisation', through a Service Level Agreement. The Council would continue to take on responsibilities, detailed in the report, which included the issuing of BID levy bills and their collection, provision of monthly levy income statements, officer support to the BID Manager and assistance with the delivery of the BID Business Plans.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Board note the proposal for Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise to take on the management and delivery of the BIDs programmes in Astmoor and Halebank; and

- 2) Halton Borough Council continues its role as billing authority for the BIDs area.