

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board Sub

**DATE:** 16 July 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Environment

**SUBJECT:** Astmoor and Halebank Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) first year annual report

**WARDS:** Castlefields and Ditton

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 This report summarises the first year finances and activities carried out by the Astmoor and Halebank Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

**(1) The Board consider and accept the first year progress report made by the Astmoor and Halebank Business Improvement Districts.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **Context**

- 3.1 The Government legislated in the Local Government Act 2003 to allow partnerships between local authorities and the local business community to set up Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). BIDs provide a means for local areas to develop and finance projects and services that will benefit localities such as town centres and industrial estates. This allows businesses in a given area to lead on and develop their own unique area improvement plans, in addition to those provided by the local authority. The proposals are subject to approval by a vote and are funded by a levy on businesses within the specified area. The levy is ring-fenced for the area to fund the extra services and improvements identified in the proposal. Each BID is operational for a maximum of five years before a new vote is taken. The local authority has a statutory responsibility to support the development of BIDs and to facilitate their establishment.
- 3.2 Businesses on Astmoor and Halebank Industrial Estate voted in favour of creating a BID in the BID Ballots, which was announced on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007. The 'yes' vote means that the BID business plans for each estate and all the additional services must be delivered from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

- 3.3 By voting in favour of establishing BIDs, businesses and property owners also voted that Halton Borough Council's Economic Regeneration Department act as the BID Body, the accountable body for the two BIDs. The Economic Regeneration Department will be responsible for managing the BIDs and ensuring that the funds collected by the Council are spent in line with the BID business plan.
- 3.4 The BIDs are governed through the respective elected Executive Committees and Business Steering Groups. The Business Steering Groups continue to be well attended and a crucial mechanism for updating the business community on BID activities and meeting their specific needs.
- 3.5 On 10, April 2008 the Executive Board Sub Committee approved that for the purposes of Procurement Standing Order (SO) 1.6 and in light of the devolved decision-making arrangements for the BID areas the Executive Committees for the Astmoor and Halebank BID areas be authorised to award contracts on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender or quotation (not necessarily the lowest) and that SOs 2.2-2.6 and SO 2.11(a)(iii) and SO 2.11(b)(iv) and SOs 2.12 and 2.13 and SOs 3.6 and 3.7 be waived accordingly.
- 3.6 The Board requested that an annual update on BIDs is provided summarising the first year finances and activities carried out on each estate.

#### **Halebank BID Finances**

- 3.7 During the inaugural year of the BID (1/04/08-31/03/09) on Halebank Industrial Estate, the total BID Levy invoiced was £44,570 across 36 hereditaments (rateable properties liable for a BID Levy).
- 3.8 The total amount of BID Levy collected was £43,275 equating to a collection rate of 97.01%. Therefore, the amount not collected was £1,295 of the total invoice amount, which was the result of one company going into liquidation. The amount not collect was less than the annual contingency figure incorporated into the BID business plan.
- 3.9 The total amount of BID Levy expenditure equated to £21,179.22, resulting in a balance of BID Levy equating to £22,095.78. This balance is ring-fenced to utilise in line with the BID business plan and through agreement of the BID Executive Committee and Business Steering Group.

#### **Halebank BID Services & Infrastructure**

- 3.10 The primary focus for the inaugural year was to improve security and design out crime. The key holding and alarm / incident response services were introduced and made available to every company on the

estate. The companies utilising these services are receiving many benefits, especially the knowledge that a professional security company will respond to their alarm in the event of an alarm activation. There are a number of companies that have yet to subscribe to this service, in part due to companies with their own 24-hour security. The contracted security firm, Select Security (Northwest) Limited, are also providing a two mobile patrols to the estate per day.

3.11 The existing estate-wide CCTV system was expanded and SmartWater DNA Forensic property marking kits were provided to business on the estate. Automatic alarm dialers were installed in a number of companies to enable their existing alarm systems to transmit alarm signals to Select Security for a response.

3.12 High profile crime prevention signage was installed to promote the range of security services and infrastructure protecting companies on the estate.

3.13 During the second year, the focus will be on implementing schemes to improve the image of the estate, although the security services will continue to operate for the lifetime of the BID programme.

### **Halebank Crime Figures**

3.14 The Official Police crime figures for Halebank Industrial Estate BID area:

<b>Crime Type</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>
Aggravated vehicle taking	0	1	0
Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	4	8	2
Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling	2	0	0
Criminal damage to a vehicle	3	4	1
Interfering with a motor vehicle	2	1	0
Other Criminal damage	2	0	3
Other theft	1	4	1
Theft by an employee	1	0	0
Theft from a vehicle	10	6	3
Theft from automatic machine or meter	1	0	0
Theft from the person	1	0	0
Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle	2	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>10</b>

3.15 The figures show that total crime on Halebank Industrial Estate has reduced by 65.5% during 2008-09, the first year the BID has been operational.

3.16 The figures show the all crime types have decreased since the BID commenced with the exception of 'other criminal damage'. Burglaries

have dropped by 75% on the previous year and by 50% on 2006-07. Theft from vehicles has continued to drop year on year.

- 3.17 The BID Executive Committee agreed that these figures demonstrated that the BID security services and the partnership with the Police are having a positive effect on the level of crime on the estate.

### **Astmoor BID Finances**

- 3.18 During the inaugural year of the BID (1/04/08-31/03/09) on Astmoor Industrial Estate, the total BID Levy invoiced was £163,555 across 162 hereditaments (rateable properties liable for a BID Levy).

- 3.19 The total amount of BID Levy collected was £157,393 equating to a collection rate of 96.23%. Therefore, the amount not collected was £6,162 of the total invoice amount, which was due to a number of liquidated companies. The amount not collect was less than the annual contingency figure incorporated into the BID business plan.

- 3.20 The total amount of BID Levy expenditure equated to £79,587.51, resulting in a balance of BID Levy equating to £77,805.49. This balance is ring-fenced to utilise in line with the BID business plan and through agreement of the BID Executive Committee and Business Steering Group.

### **Astmoor BID Services & Infrastructure**

- 3.21 The primary focus for the inaugural year was to improve security and design out crime. Every site benefits from two mobile patrols per day. In addition to the patrols, key holding and alarm / incident response services were introduced and made available to every company on the estate. The companies utilising these services are receiving many benefits, especially the knowledge that a professional security company will respond to their alarm in the event of an alarm activation. There are a number of companies that have yet to subscribe to this service, in part due to companies with their own 24-hour security or where companies do not have an existing alarm system.

- 3.22 An Auto Number Plate CCTV system has been installed covering all the vehicle entrances and exits and SmartWater DNA Forensic property marking kits were provided to business on the estate. Automatic alarm dialers were installed in a number of companies to enable their existing alarm systems to transmit alarm signals to Select Security for a response. A number of void property alarms have been purchased to protect the vacant units on the estate.

- 3.23 High profile crime prevention signage was installed to promote the range of security services and infrastructure protecting companies on the estate.

3.24 During the second year, the focus will be on implementing schemes to improve the image of the estate, although the security services will continue to operate for the lifetime of the BID programme.

### **Astmoor Crime Figures**

3.25 The Official Police crime figures for the Astmoor Industrial Estate BID area:

<b>Crime Type</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>
Arson not endangering life	0	0	1
Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	20	19	11
Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling	7	3	2
Criminal damage to a vehicle	2	5	3
Criminal damage to a dwelling	0	1	0
Interfering with a motor vehicle	1	1	0
Other Criminal damage	1	5	0
Other theft	20	8	10
Theft by an employee	1	0	1
Theft from a vehicle	11	10	12
Theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle	1	3	0
Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle	2	4	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>40</b>

3.26 The figures show that the total crime on Astmoor Industrial Estate has reduced by 32.2% on 2007-08 levels and 39.4% on 2006/07 levels during 2008-09, the first year the BID has been operational.

3.27 Burglaries have dropped by 42.1% on the previous year and by 45% on 2006-07. Criminal damage to buildings has dropped by 33% on 2007-08 and 71.4% on 2006-07 levels. All categories of criminal damage have reduced. Theft of motor vehicles and pedal cycles has dropped to 0.

3.28 The BID Executive Committee agreed that these figures demonstrated that the BID security services and the partnership with the Police are having a positive effect on the level of crime on the estate.

## **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The issues and priorities addressed through the implementation of the BID Business Plans are directly aligned to the Community Strategy:

### **A Safer Halton**

The BID Business Plans provides a package of crime prevention initiatives that are designed to deter crime from the estates, including plans to either enhance existing CCTV security systems, or install new

systems which will assist in designing out crime on the estates, which will be backed up by a response to incidents. Reduce overall crime (in line with Halton's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership targets).

### **Halton's Urban Renewal**

BIDs will attract a significant private sector contribution (more than £1 million over 5 years) to contribute towards the economic regeneration of the borough.

### **Employment, learning and skills in Halton**

The programme of work set out in the BIDs proposals, will assist with the ongoing challenge to retain existing and create new jobs

### **Children and Young People in Halton**

There are no implications arising from this report.

### **A Healthy Halton**

There are no implications arising from this report

## **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no other implications arising from this report.

## **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

In the report on 10, April 2008 the most significant risk to the delivery of BIDs was concerning non-collection of the BID Levy. As reported in paragraphs 3.8 and 3.19, the collection rate is high and well within the annual contingency figures stated in the BID business plans.

## **7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

There are no equality or diversity issues arising from this report.