

Officer decision record

<p>Officers: Director (Operations) Director (Resources and Property)</p>	<p>Services: Operations Resources and Property</p>
<p>Delegated power being exercised The Constitution authorises officers to make decisions within the scope of their responsibilities unless it is required to be made by a portfolio holder or Cabinet.</p> <p>This decision is being made in line with this principle. West Suffolk Council owns 16 properties within the Bury St Edmunds Business Improvement District (BID) area, and as such is entitled to submit votes on the future of the BID as part of the ballot. As the Director (Resources and Property) is responsible for corporate property, their authority is given to exercising the vote.</p>	
<p>Subject of decision</p>	<p>Submission of West Suffolk Council votes on the renewal of Bury St Edmunds BID</p>
<p>Decision taken (specify precise details)</p>	<p>To vote in favour of the renewal of the Bury St Edmunds BID with all 16 votes</p>
<p>Reasons for the decision (specify all reasons for taking the decisions including where necessary reference to Council policy)</p>	<p>West Suffolk Council pays business rates in Bury St Edmunds for facilities such as retail and commercial premises as well car parks. These, as taxpayer supported businesses, could be affected by the decision of the ballot or improvements brought by a BID, therefore it is reasonable that we take this into account in our decision to vote.</p> <p>This is consistent with the approach we have taken previously in other towns and is also in line with our strategic priority which states: "Growth in West Suffolk's economy for the benefit of all our residents and UK plc" As such we have an interest in actively looking at supporting businesses and improving the local economy.</p>

	The BID offers another vehicle and a voice for businesses to support partnership working in Bury St Edmunds.
Alternative options considered (if appropriate)	The Council could choose not to vote; however, this could create the perception that it does not wish to exercise its voice as a town centre business and potentially send out mixed messages given the support the Council has given to date.
Background/reports/information considered and attached (Legal, Personnel, Financial Implications and so on)	The proposal has informally been considered in detail by the Cabinet. Support has been given by all Cabinet members.
Parties consulted before the decision has been taken.	Cabinet
Conflicts of interest declared by executive members consulted, including whether the Chief Executive has authorised councillors with conflicts to continue to act	None
Decision	To vote in favour of the renewal of the Bury St Edmunds BID with all 16 votes
Signature and Date: Mark Walsh – Director (Operations) 4 June 2024 Rachael Mann – Director (Resources and Property) 4 June 2024	