

<b>Report on</b>	Economic Development Report – OBFD 1) Business Improvement District Feasibility Study (Final) 2) Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed above.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p><b>Business Improvement District Feasibility Study (Final)</b> A Business Improvement District (BID) is a collaborative partnership between a local Council and local businesses to provide a sustainable funding mechanism that will improve and manage a clearly defined commercial area. It is based on a mandatory levy on all defined ratepayers within the defined area following a majority vote and is established for up to five years for a prescribed set of services additional to those already provided by the local Council.</p>
2.2	<p><b>Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce</b> The NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry has a business network with a membership circ. 1,200 businesses representing over 100,000 employees. Mid Ulster District Council has been a member for the last three years.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Business Improvement District Feasibility Study (Final)</b> Northern Ireland BIDs was appointed by Council in June 2018 to carry out a feasibility study for the five town centres in the Mid Ulster Council area (Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon, Maghera and Magherafelt). The study provided a comprehensive assessment of the potential for developing a BID in each of the five towns and concluded with a recommendation on whether it is a viable proposition for each.</p> <p>The initial draft of the BIDs Feasibility Study was presented to the Development Committee in September 2019 for approval. However, a decision was deferred until further engagement had taken place with Dungannon Regeneration</p>

	<p>Partnership on the appropriateness of BIDs in Dungannon, especially given their intentions to submit a separate proposal to Mid Ulster Council and Department for Communities to seek funding to deliver a pilot scheme to address the high levels of vacancy and dereliction in the town.</p> <p>In the intervening period, Mid Ulster Council and Department for Communities have considered Dungannon Regeneration Partnership's proposal and agreed to provide funding towards a 3 year pilot programme to help reduce the number of vacant and derelict premises in Dungannon town centre. As a result, Dungannon Regeneration Partnership has advised Council it would wish to defer any decision on a potential BIDs scheme in Dungannon until after the evaluation of this 3 year pilot programme.</p> <p>The final version of the BIDs Feasibility Study (Executive Summary) for Mid Ulster's 5 towns (<b>on Appendix 1</b>) is enclosed with a recommendation that Mid Ulster Council do not pursue a BID in any of its 5 towns at this juncture.</p> <p><b>3.2 Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce</b>  Membership renewal is now due (<b>Appendix 2</b>) for the period 1 January – 31 December 2020 at a cost of £2,500+Vat. The benefits for the Council are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chamber has a global network, links into UK Chamber &amp; its business membership of circ. 1200 businesses</li> <li>• Actively represents members' interests at the highest political level</li> <li>• Provides a quarterly magazine of current business affairs</li> <li>• Monthly newsletter update on what's happening in business in NI</li> <li>• Organises monthly business events throughout NI</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Other Considerations</b></p>
<p><b>4.1</b></p>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>NI Chamber of Commerce Membership Renewal costs (for period 1 Jan-31 Dec 2020) is £2,500+Vat, provision made from within economic development budget.</p> <p>Human: Officer time</p> <p>Risk Management: n/a</p>
<p><b>4.2</b></p>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: n/a</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: n/a</p>

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
<p data-bbox="229 277 708 309">It is recommended that Members;</p> <p data-bbox="150 349 197 380">5.1</p> <p data-bbox="229 349 1331 497"><b>Business Improvement District Feasibility Study</b> <u>Approve</u> the Mid Ulster 5 Towns BIDS Feasibility Study (Executive Summary) recommending that Council do not pursue BIDs in any of its 5 towns at this juncture.</p> <p data-bbox="150 568 197 600">5.2</p> <p data-bbox="229 568 1394 685"><b>Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce</b> <u>Approve</u> Corporate Membership of NI Chamber of Commerce costing £2,500+Vat for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2020.</p>	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	<p data-bbox="229 792 1331 864">Appendix 1 - Mid Ulster 5 Towns BIDS Feasibility Study (Executive Summary) (Final)</p> <p data-bbox="229 904 1394 976">Appendix 2 – NI Chamber of Commerce – Membership Renewal Invoice (Jan-Dec 2020)</p>