



**REPORT FROM: PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
REGULATORY SERVICES MANAGER**

**TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021**

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## **COLNE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To request approval to fund Colne BID Ltd in advance of them receiving the business levy.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee agree to an advance payment of £40,000 to Colne BID Ltd.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

To allow Colne BID to deliver projects in accordance with the Colne BID prospectus, prior to the collection and transfer of the business levy fund by Pendle Council.

### **BACKGROUND**

1. Colne BID is now in Year 3 and continues to support town centre businesses within the BID area.
2. The BID is delivering a number of projects under Pride, Promote, Protect and Partnership themes and have numerous events and campaigns planned to take place over the next 12 months.
3. Colne BID receives revenues from BID levy payers in the BID area. As a result of Covid 19 last year, the BID Board delayed Year 2 bills from being sent out to help businesses that had to close overnight. Covid has also affected the amount of Levy collected, as of June 2021, there is still £16,150.86 of unpaid Levy from Year 2. The Board has since instructed Pendle Council to escalate the outstanding amount to Debt Recovery stage.

4. The delay in Year 2 bills along with businesses having to remain closed because of the National Lockdown has resulted in Year 3 bills only just being sent out. The combination of unpaid levy amounts and the delay in Year 3 billing has left Colne BID with limited cash flow.

### **Advance payment to Colne BID Ltd**

5. Colne BID Ltd has requested that a portion of the overall BID levy be paid up front to allow the BID team to continue to deliver projects whilst the BID levy is collected from businesses.
6. Colne BID Board has requested an advance payment £40,000.
7. The advance payment will be deducted from the balance recovered from levy payers before any further funds are transferred to Colne BID Ltd. The total levy amount is estimated to be £91,112 in Year 3 plus the outstanding amounts from Year 2.
8. It is recommended that the Committee agree to an advance payment of £40,000 to Colne BID Ltd

### **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:** Colne BID supports the Council's strategy of supporting Town Centres.

**Financial:** The Committee are asked to agree an advance of the levy payment, the cost will be deducted from the levy collected by the billing authority.

**Legal:** None as a result of this report

**Risk Management:** None as a result of this report

**Health and Safety:** None as a result of this report

**Sustainability:** The BID has added to the sustainability and economic viability/success of Colne.

**Community Safety:** None as a result of this report

**Equality and Diversity:** None as a result of this report

### **APPENDICES**