

Equality Impact Assessment: Conversation Screening Tool

[Use this form to prompt an EIA conversation and capture the discussion. This completed form or if needed, a full EIA report (form 3) will be published as part of the decision-making process *Please delete prompts before publishing]

<p>What is being reviewed?</p>	<p>Bournemouth Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID) Renewal Ballot</p>
<p>What changes are being made?</p>	<p>Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) are business led partnerships which are created through a ballot process to deliver additional services to local businesses.</p> <p>A BID is a defined area in which a levy is charged on all business rate payers in addition to the business rates bill. This levy is used to develop projects which will benefit businesses in the local area. A BID is an independent company and not part of BCP Council, although the two work closely together.</p> <p>The Bournemouth Town Centre BID area covers the majority of the town centre. No operational changes are being made. Bournemouth Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID) is preparing to undertake a renewal ballot for its third term from 2 March 2022 – 30 March 2022. The result of the ballot will be announced on 31 March 2022. A report is being taken to Cabinet to seek approval for the Council to support Bournemouth Town Centre BID for the third term.</p> <p>BCP Council is fully supportive of BIDs and the significant benefits and investment that they bring. The Bournemouth Town Centre BID proposal will help deliver the Council's strategic aims and objectives including the Dynamic Places objectives in the Corporate Plan. It has a strong track record of supporting businesses in the town centre and supporting innovative new projects. The Cabinet report recommends that BCP Council supports the Bournemouth Town Centre BID for its third 5-year term, which if successful will run from will run from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2027.</p>
<p>Service Unit:</p>	<p>Development Services</p>
<p>Participants in the conversation:</p>	<p>Chris Shephard – Director, Development Services Adrian Trevett – Economic Development Manager Liz Orme - Economic Development Officer Paula Sales – Economic Development Officer Hannah Porter – Economic Development Officer In addition, as part of the consultation process for the new Business Plan, the BID has engaged with all levy paying businesses in the BID area.</p>

Conversation date/s:	September – November 2021
Do you know your current or potential client base? Who are the key stakeholders?	BCP Council Town Centre BID levy paying businesses BID Business networking Bournemouth Chamber of Trade and Commerce R ³ Retail Hospitality and Leisure Group BCP Residents
Do different groups have different needs or experiences?	The work of Town Centre BID is committed to responding to the needs of different groups, including those with protected characteristics. The nature of town centres is that they are a central and accessible hub for all cultures and communities. The intention would be that new projects or work outlined in the Business Plan to be undertaken by the BID over the next 5 year term in the town centre will take a positive and proactive view towards all visitors and residents, including, for example, the elderly, children and young people; those with physical and mental disabilities; people from different ethnic groups; people with different religions or beliefs; and people with different socio-economic status.
Will this change affect any service users?	The continuation of the work of the BID for another 5 year term will only have a positive impact on service users, as detailed above. The intention would be that any new projects in the town centre undertaken by the BID take a positive and proactive view towards making them accessible to all.
[If the answer to any of the questions above is ‘don’t know’ then you need to gather more evidence. The best way to do this is to use forms 2 and 3. <i>*Please delete prompts before publishing*</i>]	
What are the benefits or positive impacts of the change on current or potential users?	The nature of town centres and the objectives of the BID Business Plan will mean that there will be inherent benefits for all town centre users, aiming to be welcoming, attractive and useable for all groups. Examples of the positive works and services, which benefit the groups identified above, and are provided by the BID include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of the team of Town Centre Rangers and creation of a new Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) to support the work of the Police in helping to make the town centre a safe and attractive place to live, work and visit. • Improving and enhancing the local environment, working in conjunction with BCP Council on the delivery of the Cleaner, Greener, Safer Strategy through street audits, joint deep cleaning projects and place improvement projects, for example Westover Road and Lansdowne. • Encouraging social responsibility and engagement through a calendar of free events such as trails and arts and culture events plus support for Christmas Tree Wonderland

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving accessibility and wayfinding through improved signage within the town centre and Beach/Gardens to encourage all residents and visitors to visit • Support for local businesses and liaison with local trade and community groups, which in turn will improve local employment opportunities
What are the negative impacts of the change on current or potential users?	None currently known. When developing the projects from the Business Plan, the BID will consider any potential negative impacts although none are anticipated.
Will the change affect employees?	There will be no effect on employees as a result of this Strategy.
Will the change affect the wider community?	Yes, positively for the reasons outlined above.
What mitigating actions are planned or already in place for those negatively affected by this change?	If negative impacts are predicted, these will be picked up as part of the development and implementation of the projects outlined in the BID Business Plan.
Summary of Equality Implications:	The nature of the town centre and the work of the Town Centre BID will help create a more inclusive and vibrant economy that will benefit all members of our community. Town centres are accessible, multifunctional community hubs, and the current and future projects undertaken by the BID will offer further advantage and opportunities to create positive and proactive experiences for town centre users across all groups. These will include a calendar of events, wayfinding and marketing activity, improved security, environmental enhancements and business and employment support.