

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Council agrees:

- a. To approve the ballot request, to approve the Isle of Bute BID Business Plan and agree to instruct the Returning Officer to conduct a ballot over 42 days in 2021 from Thursday 29th July to Thursday 9th September ('the ballot day').
- b. To authorise the Executive Director with the responsibility for Development & Economic Growth to cast the votes on behalf of the council in favour of the BID.
- c. To agree that the Council will charge

- 5.5 The Business Plan also sets out the BID ballot process. It is proposed that the ballot will open for 42 days in 2021 from Thursday 29th July to Thursday 9th September ('the ballot day'), with the ballot papers being counted on Monday 13th September 2021.
- 5.6 An Isle of Bute BID is predicated on a successful ballot, which would be facilitated by Argyll and Bute Council. For the ballot to count, a minimum 25% turnout of all businesses must be realised, and of those business representatives that vote over 50% by number and 50% by combined rateable value must vote in favour of the bid. Results would be published within one week of the date of the count.
- 5.7 If successful, the Isle of Bute BID would commence on 01/10/2021 and will run for a period of five years until the 30/09/2026.

Council Commitment and Finances

- 5.8 The Isle of Bute BID Steering Group has been allocated one day per week support by an officer from Development and Economic Growth. In addition, support has been received by officers from Legal and Governance, Customer Services and Strategic Finance. If the BID ballot were successful, the BID company would request 2 representatives from the Council to sit on the BID Board, one Elected member and one Officer. There is no other financial request at this time.
- 5.9 If the Ballot is successful then Argyll and Bute, as a levy payer, will be required to pay levy on its properties on the island. This estimated contribution is £9,850 per annum.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Following extensive consultations with levy payers, the Isle of Bute BID Steering Group has determined that there is merit in pursuing a ballot on a Business Improvement District and the Business Plan submitted sets out the economic and social case. Council approval is now being formally sought to approve the ballot process for the Isle of Bute Business Improvement District.

7.0 IML 107.42 26nC

collection and administration of the levy