

Annex 1: Information requested in relation to Bridgend Business Support District and Business Improvement Districts in Wales

In relation to your letter dated 26 June 2020, please find responses below:

- a) The grant funding of £21,600 was paid in five separate claims, supported by invoices between 29/12/14 and 03/10/16 and paid directly to Bridgend County Borough Council.
- b) Please find enclosed a copy of the Welsh Government 'Award of Funding in relation to development support for a proposed Business Improvement District at Bridgend Town Centre for 2014-2017' grant award letter dated 19 February 2014, issued to Bridgend County Borough Council. The letter includes the conditions of the grant and permitted expenditure – see Schedule 1 'The Purposes' and Schedule 2 'The Targets'.
- c) Please see paragraph 9 'Notification Events and their consequences' of the enclosed Grant Award letter which outlines the requirements for repayment of the grant funding. Bridgend County Borough Council fulfilled all of the obligations associated with the conditions of the funding and as a result, none of the grant funding awarded was required to be repaid to the Welsh Government.
- d) The development support funding award from Welsh Government is to provide support for local authorities to consider the suitability of a BID. In supporting the development of BIDs, Welsh Government recognises that there is no guarantee of longevity of the BID and that this is determined by the ballot. Monitoring was undertaken throughout the development phase in line with paragraph 10 of the Grant Award letter. Once a BID is established, no further formal monitoring takes place as this should be undertaken by the BID Board and members, in line with their legal obligations as an independent private business.

The Welsh Government remains fully supportive of BIDs and sees them as having a critical role in driving change for their towns given their representation, experience, local knowledge, autonomy and ability to raise finance. The Welsh Government is supportive of giving local communities a voice in their towns and BIDs are one mechanism to do this.

In relation to your letter dated 2 July 2020, please find responses below:

- a) The legislation for Wales' BIDs is The Business Improvement Districts (Wales) Regulations 2005 and can be found at:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2005/1312/contents/made>

b) There are currently 16 Business Improvement Districts in Wales:

BID	YEAR COMMENCED
Aberdare	2020
Aberystwyth	2016
Bangor	2016
Caernarfon	2016
Cardiff	2016
Carmarthen	2020
Ebbw Vale	2020
Llanelli	2016
Merthyr Tydfil	2012
Neath	2016
Newport	2015
Pontypridd	2016
Port Talbot	2020
Rhyl	2019
Swansea	2006
Treorchy	2020

Further information can be found at <https://gov.wales/business-improvement-districts/business-improvement-districts-in-wales>

c) The BIDs which failed at first ballot are:
Abergavenny, Llangollen and Brecon.

The BID which failed at a renewal ballot is Bridgend.

d) Welsh Government facilitates an All Wales BID Network which provides support and advice for BID Managers and local authorities, to allow the sharing of information and best practice. The Network is not a formal body and is convened on an informal basis to encourage sharing of information and help support BIDs to be sustainable and perform to a high standard. There are no Terms of Reference for the Network meetings and no formal minutes are taken, and this was the case for the meeting on 30 October 2019.