

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	13th September 2017
Subject:	City Centre Enforcement/Protection Officers		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for the Environment and Cabinet Member for Communities & Neighbourhoods		
Wards Affected:	Westgate		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	None		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the City Council to support Gloucester BID Limited in the delivery of an enhanced city centre wardens service to contribute towards the ongoing improvement of the city centre, and help to address anti social behaviour.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

- 1) A contract be entered into with Gloucester BID Limited for 4 years for the delivery of an enhanced City Centre Enforcement/Protection service for the sum of £35,000 per annum and approval be granted to waive the Contract Rules accordingly.
- 2) Authority be delegated to the Head of Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Environment and the Cabinet Member for Communities & Neighbourhoods to agree full details of the initiative and work programme for the delivery of the enhanced service as mentioned in (1) above and approval be given to the Council Solicitor, to approve all necessary legal documentation to implement the resolutions.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The Administration's manifesto commits the City Council to reinstate city centre wardens to deal with enforcement of dropping litter, riding bicycles through the gates streets and contributing towards addressing anti social behaviour.
- 3.2 Gloucester businesses voted for a BID. A central component of its business plan is to create a city that is not only safer but feels safer for all who work, study, visit and shop within it. This they are proposing to do through the introduction of City Enforcement/Protection Officers.
- 3.3 The Gloucester BID initiative, together with the City Councils commitment, provides a real opportunity to work in a combined manner to maximise benefits for the citizens of Gloucester. As a consequence, rather than develop its own initiative, this report proposes that the City Council approves the budget allocated for the City Centre Enforcement Officers to be passed over to the BID company, through appropriate agreements and performance indicators, to create a comprehensive approach to address antisocial behaviour in the city centre. This would equate to a contribution of £35,000 per annum for a period of 4 years (subject to extension provisions). It would compliment the BIDs commitment of £70,000 per year and the Police and Crime Commissioners contribution of £35,000 per year for the remainder of his term (2020). The Enforcement Officers will cover the whole BID area which is wider than the city centre.
- 3.4 The intention would be for Gloucester BID Limited to determine the basis and activity of the Officers. However the Council, as part of its contribution, would be looking to encourage a firmer response to anti social behaviour, which is aligned with the BID business plan. There would be an expectation that the Officers would be able to work in a robust but strengths based approach to tackling anti-social behaviour which is well aligned with the work of Solace, the Safe & Attractive Streets Policy and the Council's homelessness team. In addition to be able to deal with people riding bicycles through the gates streets, reports of noise nuisance, substance misuse, litter, dog fouling, graffiti, fly-tipping, smoking in public places and confiscate alcohol if necessary. Furthermore they could work closely with the Council's Place Team to make the city centre an even more vibrant, welcoming and safe place. Details will need to be discussed and agreed with Gloucester BID Limited but they are likely to be available 7 days a week.
- 3.5 Other cities with experience of these initiatives have found that these Officers become the BID's eyes and ears, recording issues affecting organisations within the BID area, making sure that centres operate effectively for the businesses and their customers. They are also likely to be a uniformed team who will be on hand to provide a warm welcome and helpful information for people visiting the capital. They could also be trained in First Aid and defibrillator use and have close liaison with the CCTV team, often being the first line of support to arrive at an incident.

- 3.6 Combined with the major developments being progressed in the city centre, the fundamental positive changes we will see over the coming years, the recommendation within this report provides a major opportunity, for the city centre community (through Gloucester BID Limited), to not only work closely with the Council, but for the community to define and deliver the solutions that will benefit us all.

4.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 The City Council could deliver Enforcement Officers working on its own. However this would be a City Council solution to issues being experienced by the private sector and our visitors. It would be far more appropriate to work in partnership to, in the first instance, do more with the resources available, but more importantly, work closely with and provide the tools and mechanisms for those on the front line to design and implement solutions that move the city centre forward.

5.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 The recommendation allows a solutions based approach working closely with those impacted by antisocial activity in the city centre, providing funding that enhances other funding and allows more to be done.

6.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 6.1 Officers will be required to deliver a legal agreement with the BID to ensure that the resources are used to maximum effect and appropriately. This they will do working closely with the BID.
- 6.2 The Enforcement/Protection Officers will be complimented by the development of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). This will be delivered, following consultation, to ensure that our public spaces can be enjoyed free from anti-social behaviour.

7.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Implications

- 7.1 This initiative is entirely consistent with the principles of ABCD. The city centre business community have made the BID happen, they are now looking to take forward the delivery of their business plan. The City Council is looking to enable them and also to benefit from their knowledge, skills and expertise through the provision of funding to deliver shared objectives.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 The Council is committing to contributing £35,000 per annum over a four year period.

9.0 Legal Implications

- 9.1 The need for a formal agreement between the Council and the BID Company is referred to several times in the report. The agreement should state the outcomes expected from the service along with key performance indicators to measure service delivery. There should also be provisions relating to contract management and sanctions for non- delivery, up to and including termination and repayment of funding. An agreement is also necessary to avoid any suggestion that the Council is granting State Aid.
- 9.2 The total amount being paid to the BID Company is below the current EU goods and services threshold of £164,176. Thus it is permissible for the Council to grant a waiver of its own procedure rules per paragraph 2.1 1. It is suggested that the grounds for the waiver are those contained in Part 4: Rule 6.1.1 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules relating to the supply of specialised services. Note that any increase in the value of the contract, e.g. via extensions, should be monitored to ensure that the EU threshold is not exceeded without first taking legal advice.

10.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 10.1 The recommendations offer an opportunity to improve the functionality, appearance and attractiveness of the City Centre. The risk is primarily around delivery and performance. However Officers will work closely with the BID to ensure appropriate mitigation measure are put in place.

11.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

- 11.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required. The impacts will all be positive.

12.0 Other Corporate Implications:

12.1 Community Safety

There are significant positive community safety implications. The initiative aims to enhance and promote safety, building on and benefiting from initiatives already in place.

13.2 Sustainability

There are no sustainability issues.

13.3 Staffing & Trade Union

There are no direct staffing implications.

Background Documents: Cabinet reports of 15th July 2015 and 17th May 2017