

To: Leadership Board

On: 19 February 2020

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Paisley First Renewal Ballot Outcome

1. Summary

- 1.1 As reported to the June 2019 meeting of the Board, the renewal ballot for Paisley First Business Improvement District was due to take place during September and October 2019 with the result being announced on 25 October 2019. The ballot has now been concluded with Paisley First being successful in gaining support of the levy payers for a second term which commenced on 15th January 2020.
- 1.2 This report provides the detail of the ballot result and also recommends that Renfrewshire Council is represented on the board of Paisley First for the next term by the Head of Regeneration.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council
- (i) notes the result of the renewal ballot for the Paisley First Business Improvement District and that Paisley First were successful in getting approval for a second term as the business improvement district for Paisley Town Centre and that work is ongoing to conclude the required operating agreement between Paisley First and the Council; and
 - (ii) agrees that the Head of Regeneration will replace the Director of Communities, Housing and Planning as the Renfrewshire Council nominated Director on the Board of Paisley First.
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3. Background

- 3.1 Paisley First was registered as the Business Improvement District for Paisley Town Centre in January 2015 following the outcome of a successful ballot of town centre businesses on 13 November 2014. BIDs have a legislative basis under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2006. The BID is elected on a 5 year term with the requirement to seek re-election to continue operating.
- 3.2 The Paisley First Board of Directors is made up of local business owners, there are 13 positions on the board, including one position for Renfrewshire Council which to date has been held by the Director of Communities, Housing and Planning.
- 3.3 At the request of Paisley First and subsequent to the decision of the Leadership Board at the June 2019 meeting, Renfrewshire Council commissioned the renewal ballot and appointed the Electoral Reform Commission to conduct the ballot on our behalf. Ballot papers were issued to all levy payers in September 2019 with the ballot closing on 24 October 2019.
- 3.4 The ballot outcome was announced on 25 October 2019. The total number of votes was 278 out of a total number of eligible premises of 709 (35.98%). 199 (71%) votes were in favour of Paisley First continuing and 79 (29%) were not in favour. The rateable values of the relevant properties in respect of which the votes were cast: an aggregate rateable value of £6,014,450 voted in favour, with an aggregate rateable value of £1,335,550 against. The ballot therefore met all four tests set out in the legislation and was declared in favour of renewal of Paisley First for the 5 years commencing on 15 January 2020.
- 3.5 Following the announcement of the ballot result, officers have been working with Paisley First to revise the operating agreement for the next term including the arrangements for collection of the bid levy which is the responsibility of Renfrewshire Council on behalf of Paisley First. Delegated authority was given to the Chief executive by the Board in June 2019 to put in place necessary arrangements for the collection of the BID levy and for finalising the terms of the operating agreement.
- 3.6 Renfrewshire Council is currently represented on the Board of Directors for Paisley First by the Director of Communities, Housing and Planning. It is now proposed that the Head of Regeneration is nominated as the Council's representative on Paisley First.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – Renfrewshire Council pays a levy in respect of properties within the Bid Boundary.
2. **HR & Organisational** – The collection of the BID levy is the responsibility of Renfrewshire Council. Systems and arrangements for collection are already established.

3. **Community/Council Planning –**
 - Our Renfrewshire is thriving – the activities of Paisley First contribute to the animation and activity within Paisley Town Centre.
 - Our Renfrewshire is safe – Paisley First work with Renfrewshire Council and the Community Safety Partnership on initiatives such as Purple Flag accreditation which contributes to a safer night time economy.
 - Working together to improve outcomes – Paisley First work closely with the Council and partners on a range of issues and provide events and activities which are complementary to the Council's activities.
 4. **Legal** – Paisley First is established as a Business Improvement District under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2006. The requirement for a renewal ballot after the 5 year term and the requirements for Renfrewshire Council as the local authority are established in the legislation.
 5. **Property/Assets** – n/a
 6. **Information Technology** – n/a
 7. **Equality & Human Rights** -
 - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report.
 8. **Health & Safety** – n/a.
 9. **Procurement** –n/a
 10. **Risk** –n/a
 11. **Privacy Impact** – n/a
 12. **COSLA Policy Position** –n/a.
 13. **Climate Risk** – n/a
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List of Background Papers

- (i) Background Paper 1 – “Paisley First” Proposed Business Improvement District (BID) paper to Economy & Jobs Policy Board 28 January 2015.
- (ii) Background Paper 2 – Paisley First Renewal Ballot – paper to Leadership Board 19 June 2019.

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Communities, Housing and Planning Services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting.
