



Castlereagh Borough Council

Stye Braes o Ulidia Burgh Coouncil

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Stephen Reid B.Sc., MBA
Chief Executive

29th August 2012

Dr Kevin Pelan
Committee Clerk
Committee for Social Development
Northern Ireland Assembly
Room 412 Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Dear Kevin

RE: Business Improvement Districts Bill – written submission by Castlereagh Borough Council.

Thank you for your invitation to provide written evidence to the Business Improvement Districts Bill which was formally introduced to the Northern Ireland Assembly on 25th June 2012. I have responded on behalf of Castlereagh Borough Council in relation to specific clauses of the Bill in the summary below.

Clause 4 '**Duty to comply with arrangements**': This clause should be revised to include LPS's responsibility for complying with arrangements.

Clause 12 (5) '**Imposition and amount of BID levy**': This sub-section currently reads, BID proposals 'must include a statement of whether any of the costs incurred in developing the BID proposals, or holding of the ballot are to be recovered through BID levy'. Rather than a statement being provided it would be preferred if BID proposals 'must detail the costs incurred in developing the BID proposal, holding the ballot and delivering the BID proposals and what costs are to be recovered from the BID levy'. Only through provision of this information will District Council's be in a position to review the potential for an improved business environment and local economic growth.

Clause 13 (4) '**Liability and Accounting for BID levy**': This sub-section currently reads, 'Any amount of BID levy for which an eligible ratepayer is liable is to be paid to the district council which made the arrangements'. In accordance with your consultation findings and discussions with the Department of Finance and Personnel

(DFP) should this be revised to reflect collection by Land and Property Services (LPS)?

The Council is widely supportive of the Bill and welcomes the flexibility that the Bill provides to ensure that BID's meet local needs and makes provision to protect the interests of small and large businesses.

Yours sincerely



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