

**FOI Reference Number:** FOI/339/1920

**Date:** 10 January 2020

**Request:**

1. What exactly is the relationship between BID and the Council (if any)?
2. How is BID funded?
3. Does BID lodge annual accounts with the Council and if so could the last copy of same be supplied?
4. Does the Council in any way assist or/and provide finance to BID and if so on what basis?

**Response:**

Thank you for your information request which Mid and East Antrim Borough Council received on 11 December 2019. Please find below, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's response in relation to your request.

- 1. Mid and East Antrim Borough Council has appointed one representative on the Board, i.e. Board member (currently Audrey Wales). Council Officers attend meetings as advisors with no voting rights.***
- 2. The BID is funded through the levy that is charged on all business ratepayers in the BID boundary.***
- 3. We do not submit accounts in relation to BID, but the Ballymena BID company submit their own accounts and this process is managed outside of Council business.***
- 4. MEABC and BID frequently partner in projects that add economic benefit to the town centre, e.g. Street Cleaner, Floral Displays, Midtown Sounds and Discount Day Marketing.***

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of part of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Chief Executive at the Braid Ballymena Town Hall, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ.

Please remember to quote the reference number FOI/339/1920 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Please be advised that Mid and East Antrim Borough Council may release the response to this information request into the public domain via our website at <https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/>.

If we publish our response to your request, your personal data will be removed to protect your privacy.