

## **PRESS RELEASE**

18th February 2019

A cross-party group of Scarborough Borough Councillors has served a Requisition on Mayor Councillor Joe Plant (Con.) demanding an Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council to debate and vote on the following single Agenda Item/Motion:

- **"In recognition of legitimate criticism of the ballot process underpinning the Yorkshire Coast D-BID, will this Council set aside all involvement with this or other D-BIDs for a period of five years?"**

It is a matter of public record that the ballot conducted by Returning Officer Mr Jim DILLON for the purpose of ratifying the Yorkshire Coast D-BID was resolved by **217** votes **FOR**, *versus* **175 AGAINST**. Public authority stakeholders - i.e. Scarborough Borough Council (SBC), North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) - collectively cast **71** votes (all **FOR**).

Self-evidently, without the public authority votes, the proposal would have been soundly defeated by **175 AGAINST** *versus* only **146 FOR**. Thus, business proprietors' electoral rejection of the D-BID can be seen to have been rebutted only by the inclusion of the **71** public authority votes.

Many of SBC's **32 FOR** votes were cast on behalf of unoccupied properties held in public ownership, freehold, by the Council (in respect of car parks, public toilets, etc) by a presently unidentified individual.

Where is the democracy? Where is the transparency? Where is the accountability?

Clearly, the very fact that it was the public authority vote that secured ratification contravenes the widely-proclaimed D-BID premise that the D-BID is "business driven". Also clear is the fact that - and this is apparent from public meetings and direct communication with business proprietors - the level of objection to the terms of the D-BID amounts almost to unanimity amongst business proprietors who face the imposition of the levy.

As democratically elected representatives of these businesses, it is our duty to provide checks and balances to ensure that the Council's involvement in the D-BID is unimpeachably democratic. It is for this reason that we seek the support of all elected members of the Council in our determination to disassociate the Council from any further involvement in an apparently counter-democratic private enterprise initiative that the people we represent have roundly rejected.

Signatories include: Cllr. Sam Cross [Ind.] (Proposer), Cllr. Norman Murphy [Ind.](Seconder), Cllr. Tony Randerson [Lab.], Cllr. Rob Barnett [Lab.], Cllr. Jonathan Dodds [Ind.].

**- END -**

**Editors:** For further information, please contact [Cllr. Tony Randerson](#) on **07527-663390**.