

25th July 2022

Dear Cllr Siddons

Re: Extraordinary Council Meeting 28th July 2022 Yorkshire Coast BID Ltd

We trade in a number of locations throughout the UK and have seen the introduction of BID Levy's in each location over the last few years. We are generally unsupportive of what we see as an additional tax forced upon businesses, which rarely delivers its stated aim of developing projects which will benefit businesses in the local area.

We are particularly unhappy with the Scarborough Borough Council BID levy as it is by far the largest cost to the business compared to the 7 other locations we trade in outside of SBC area. We have seen little or no consultation on projects or how the money will be spent, and often feel that the money is wasted on glorified projects which either don't deliver results to the business or actively work against it. A great example of this is this last weekend with Seafest, funded by the BID levy. This succeeded in costing us trade by the loss of the carpark, before and during the event, and stallholders selling the same products in competition with our shops. I'm sure you can appreciate, this is a bit of a cheek!

The idea in principle is fine but the execution by SBC is poor, with badly thought out and unimaginative ideas, with no thought to any conflict of interest to the businesses paying for it. BID's are supposed to be business led partnerships but this seems to be a council led partnership, which is damaging the Council's relationship with those businesses it desperately needs to invest in the town and to promote regeneration. When the Businesses do not support the BID it has failed and it should be brought to an end as swiftly as possible.

This is one of the reasons why we have refused to pay our most recent BID levy charges. I urge the council to take heed of the businesses they are supposed to serve and put an end to the BID levy as it stands.

Yours Sincerely

James Hodgson
Director