

To: An Cathaoirleach and Members of Sligo County Council

**Re: Item number 6 – Ordinary Meeting of Sligo County Council – 3rd Nov 2025
To note the outcome of the public consultation on a proposed Sligo Business
Improvement District (BID) to succeed the current Sligo BID and arrange the
holding of a plebiscite**

The Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act, 2006 inserted a new Section 129 into the Local Government Act, 2001. It provides a legislative basis for the setting up of a Business Improvement District (BID), driven by businesspersons in a town or city working in cooperation with their Council to improve upon the area within the BID.

The BID Company's activities are funded by a "BID contribution levy" from each business, which is collectable by the Council. The Company may also raise funding from other sources. The current BID term ceases on 28 February 2026.

The BID Company has submitted a BID Proposal to Sligo County Council requesting that Sligo County Council facilitates in the holding of a plebiscite under Section 129C (4) (a) of the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2006.

In accordance with Section 129E of the Act:

- a public notice was inserted in the Sligo Champion on 24th September 2025 inviting submissions from the public on a proposal for a BID.
- a copy of the BID proposal was made available at Sligo County Council, Riverside, Sligo and the Local Enterprise Office, City Hall, Quay Street, Sligo.
- a copy of the BID proposal was made available online at www.sligococo.ie/bid.
- in compliance with the requirement to give the public at least 30 days to respond, submissions were sought by 24th October 2025 at the latest.
- the BID proponent (Sligo BID) was copied with all submissions received; and
- this report constitutes the requisite report to Members on the submissions received.

Thirty-seven submissions were received, all expressing support for the introduction of a further BID. No submissions were received opposing the introduction of a further BID. To this end, section 129F(1) of the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2006 states *'If, based on submissions received under section 129E, the rating authority concerned is of the view that the BID proposal may be inconsistent with the interests of the local community, the rating authority shall, as soon as practicable..... notify the BID proponent in writing explaining the nature of the inconsistency'*.

No such opposing submissions were received.

Considering the submissions received, the current BID Company (the "proponent") has re-confirmed its initial request to the Council to arrange a plebiscite as is required under the legislation.

Section 14 of Statutory Instrument 166/2007 provides that the returning officer shall open the ballot box *"in the presence of the Cathaoirleach or such other member or members of the rating authority as may be authorised by that authority to attend at the opening of the ballot box"*. Members may wish to nominate more than one Member, including to provide for situations where a nominee might be unavailable on the date of opening of the ballot box.

Decisions Sought

- (1) Proceed, pursuant to Section 129G of the Local Government Act, 2001 to hold a plebiscite to determine the level of support for a proposed Sligo Business Improvement District (BID) to succeed the current Sligo BID;
- (2) Pursuant to Section 14 of Statutory Instrument 166/2007 nominate a Member or Members to attend the opening of the ballot box.

Brían Flynn
Director of Services
Live Invest Visit & Borough District of Sligo

3rd November 2025