

**Full Council – 22 February 2023**

**Written question from Ms L Blackledge to the Cabinet Member for Levelling Up, Regeneration, Business Development and Tourism**

Do council members think it right for charities to be subject to the Wight Bid? -at least 20 charities are on levy list.

The Museum of Ryde is run by volunteers mostly septuagenarians. Last month visitors generated under £80 - expenses were £1300. The levy is £150 maybe insignificant but without visitors -bankruptcy by August. The museum is a great asset for the Island but could be easily lost. How about promotion via VIOW website? It's mentioned by name but details would be useful. 2 members of Team VIOW told me they don't have time to visit clients - no forging of good relationships then! Team Museum are (unwilling) clients. The mental health of the volunteers needs nurturing - working in a chilly museum for the benefit of the Island is admirable. Hope there's a good duty of care policy in place. This is just one of the charities listed on levy list.

## ***Response***

Thank you for your question.

The council has no influence regarding the application of the BID levy as this is laid down in legislation. Ryde Business Association seeks to provide a voice for town centre businesses in High St regeneration matters via the Ryde Regeneration Working group

- All businesses that receive invoices for Wight BID do so because the hereditament category that is listed on the NNDR (National Non-Domestic Rates list) features in the full list of categories published in the Wight BID business plan.
- Visit Isle of Wight communicate with Wight BID levy payers regularly in numerous ways including weekly Industry e-newsletters to the businesses.