



Applying to become a Member of Weymouth BID Ltd.

As from 1st September 2016 BID Levy Payers have the opportunity to become a Member of Weymouth BID Ltd.

The company has updated the Articles of Association to fit more in line with the company's role as a BID, and as part of this the ability to become a Member of the company.

Below is a list of Questions & Answers to help explain about Members and Directors and how the Company operates.

Q & As

How does Weymouth BID Ltd operate in delivering the BID 5 year Business plan 2013 – 2018?

The BID has a Board of Directors that provides the strategic direction, as well as advice and support, for projects that help deliver the Business Plan. The Board is ultimately responsible for the company's actions and financial security.

The Board represent all Levy Payers within the BID area and is supported by an operational team led by the Weymouth BID Manager.

The Board works to a five-year Business Plan and agree on a budget each year for its delivery. The Board meets bi-monthly to receive reports on current projects, or new proposed projects that, in most cases, require a decision by the Board based on recommendations.

If these are agreed then it is the BID staff operational team that then deliver the projects and will continue to report back to the Board on progress, or when additional decisions are required at Board level.

The Board also has the option to meet at Board forums between formal Board meetings. These provide the opportunity to discuss potential new ideas and projects in a less formal environment. Board forums may be as a result of feedback from Levy Payers, or a proposal put forward by an individual or organisation.

Weymouth BID Ltd provides an annual report on its activities and plans for the year ahead. The report is sent out annually to all Levy Payers with their invoice. A set of accounts are produced in November and these are formally presented at a meeting of the company each year. Members of the company are invited to this meeting.

Outside of this all the information is available on line www.weymouthbid.co.uk for all levy payers to view.

Why am I not a Member by paying the levy?

The company is registered with Companies House as Weymouth BID Ltd. It is a "not for profit" company and works to an Articles of Association.

These articles require anyone wanting to be a Member to apply based on a criteria that includes the requirement to be a Levy Payer. It is open for all Levy Payers to apply.

Weymouth BID Ltd cannot accept all Levy Payers are Members and on a practical basis needs confirmation of the actual levy payer particularly for larger companies.

Do I have to become a Member?

No it is voluntary

Why would I want to apply to become a Member?

This gives you the opportunity to help support Weymouth BID in delivering the five-year Business Plan, as voted on in May 2013

It also provides the Board of Directors with a more open approach to feedback decisions or consult on the strategic direction of the BID each year.

Do I not have that opportunity by being a Levy Payer?

Yes you have.

There are regular e-newsletters, forums, social media, surveys and websites that both provide information on the BID's activities and for feedback and ideas.

There is also an office in town and the offer of 1-2-1 meetings for all Levy Payers.

So what is the point of being a Member?

Feedback received at BID Levy Payer Forums and at general meetings was the BID should have an increased number of business representatives involved in the company as not all Levy Payers can be a Directors - being a Member achieved this.

In addition, it allows Members to vote at meetings called by Weymouth BID Ltd for that purpose if required. (see note on AGMs)

Can I become a Director?

Yes

If you are a Levy Payer you can apply at any time to become a Director and details on how to apply are available on www.weymouthbid.co.uk.

This is subject to places being available as the number of Director is limited. The Articles of Association indicate a maximum of ten Directors and two local authority positions as ex-officio Members of the board.

Since the BID began there has always been spaces available to become a Director as individuals move on or their business commitments prevent them giving the time needed as volunteers.

In 2016 two Directors stood down and three new Levy Payers joined the board.

Can I be a Director and a Member?

Yes

The new Articles state that all Directors must be Members of the company.

Annual General Meetings

The BID has held AGMs each year and much of the confusion has been the assumption that Levy Payers who attended were able to vote. This was not the case and never the intention of Weymouth BID Ltd for this to continue.

The work this year in changing the Articles of Association and providing the opportunity to become a Member will allow levy payers that right.

Outside of this the BID will continue to ask all levy payers for their opinions and ideas through the wide range of communications used by the BID on a regular basis.

So what can be decided at an AGM

Weymouth BID Ltd provides ways all year round ways for Levy Payers to make comment and does not rely on one annual meeting for that opportunity. As a result in normal circumstances AGMs are formal with limited agendas.

The Articles make clear the type of decisions that may need a vote include:

- Any amendments or changes to the company set up or Articles of Association
- Agreement of the Annual Accounts – Weymouth BID Ltd is not required to provide annual audited accounts but does have the accounts checked and presented by a qualified accounts firm. Albert Goodman Chartered Accountants.
- Anything other item the Board feel requires a vote by Members of the company.

If you require any further information please contact the BID Office all details on the website.