



The Business Improvement District (BID) programme is, as it says on the cover, a framework to partner with business associations in Auckland's town centres and business areas.

In its BID Policy, updated in 2016, Auckland Council sets out the partner roles and accountabilities.

The BID programme is only made possible by the council using powers under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 to collect the BID targeted rate.

As the "funding agent", Auckland Council is responsible for collecting more than \$17 million annually in BID targeted rates.

We take that responsibility seriously and exercise our powers reasonably.

There needs to be a careful balance between the independence of the business association but also the accountability for monies that have been collected by a public sector organisation.

In the first part of our BID Policy 2016, we set out the policy principles (14-16), including the council's powers as funding agent:

14. ... reserves the right to review the use of targeted rate funds (the purpose used); the needs for audit; financial viability of the BID programme and any other BID programme related information at Auckland Council's sole discretion.

15. ... reserves the right to undertake (at Auckland Council's expense) random audits on any aspect of the BID programme.

16. Auckland Council will make the final decisions on what BID programme targeted rates, if any, to set in any particular year or property (in terms of the amount and the geographic area to be rated).

Again, these powers are exercised reasonably and only when required.