



The Blackburn EDZ BID

Economic Development Zone
Business Improvement District

Proposal for a Business Improvement District 2022-2027



Continuing to develop our objectives through BID 4

Our Key Aims For the Blackburn EDZ BID

- ▶ Safer and secure business parks
- ▶ Greener, cleaner and sustainable
- ▶ A supported and sustainable business community
- ▶ A great place to work and do business
- ▶ A private sector led added value investment for Greenbank, Furthergate and Whitebirk business parks

A message from the Blackburn EDZ BID Board

We are pleased to present this proposal for a successor Business Improvement District (BID) for the Blackburn EDZ BID. We are confident that this fourth term BID will provide us with a significant return on investment for all businesses through supporting our objectives of creating a safe, secure, green and clean environment for businesses to prosper.

The Blackburn EDZ BID was one of the UK's first non-retail BIDs. There are now more than 300 BIDs across the UK, delivering great financial results for businesses large and small, supporting towns, business parks and industrial estates to enhance their offer on a daily basis.

It is easy to take for granted the work from the BID, however you only have to visit other key business parks across the North West and UK to appreciate what has been achieved through our BID.

Since 2007 we have seen over £1m of private sector investment into added value projects and services for our business park. A 'Yes' vote for this proposal will see this work maintained and further developed between 2022 and 2027, with the benefits from this investment clearly outlined within this proposal.

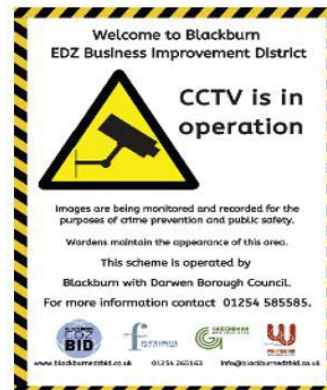
Looking at the recent challenges of Covid 19 and the impact that this potentially has on our economy and looking at the national challenges that face us now, we feel that with the BID in place we will continue to strive to embrace those challenges and support companies to grow and prosper into the future.

This is our plan A - there is no plan B for the future management of Greenbank, Furthergate and Whitebirk business parks. The BID will cost the average business the daily equivalent of less than £1.50 a day, and in return deliver a high quality, supported and secure environment for businesses to prosper. We would therefore encourage you to review this proposal, share it with your management team and vote 'yes' to a successor BID.

2017-22 Achievements from the Blackburn EDZ BID

New and Updated 28 Camera CCTV System

- ▶ Since 2017 the BID has invested **£85,000** to bring the former system up to date with the latest camera technology
- ▶ **28 new CCTV cameras** monitor the BID area in high definition with images monitored through the Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council CCTV monitoring station
- ▶ **Crime and security** incidents remain very low



More than **5000** bags of litter collected since 2017

- ▶ Since 2019 an average of 4 bags of litter have been removed each working day
- ▶ 130 green space maintenance visits since 2019

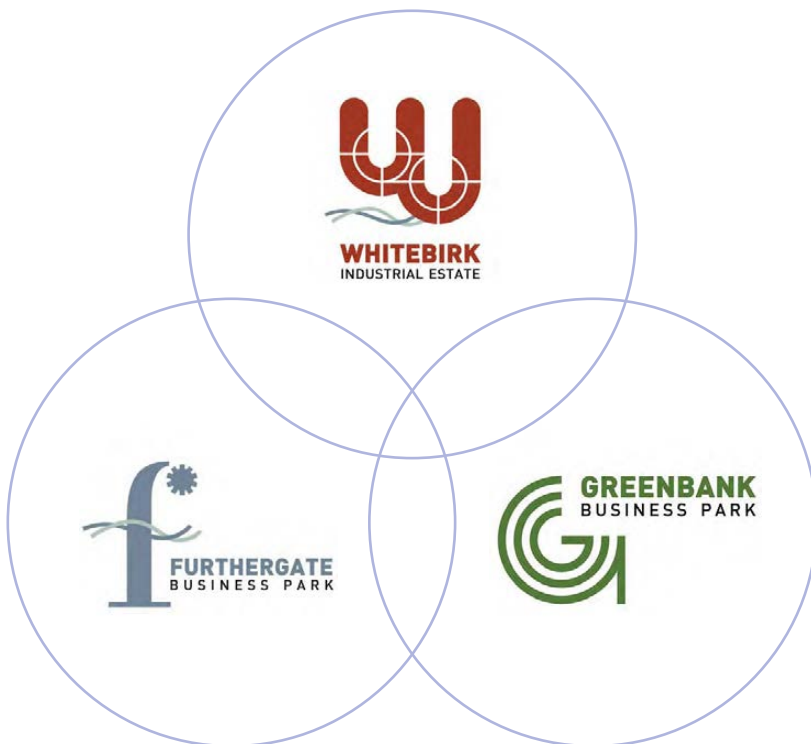
250+ Fly Tipping and ASB Incidents Cleared

- ▶ **201 fly tipping incidents cleared** since 2019
- ▶ Rubbish from 61 antisocial behaviour incidents managed
- ▶ **62 road gullies reported and unblocked** by Blackburn with Darwen Council



Supporting Blackburn EDZ Companies

- ▶ The Blackburn BID has supported companies by releasing regular information about grants and support throughout the covid pandemic
- ▶ Regular business support visits to companies are delivered resolving issues including: Problem parking; nuisance neighbours; damage to property; persistent localised antisocial behaviour
- ▶ Sharing information on how to report environmental incidents and liaise with local Police



"It is easy to take for granted what we have in the Blackburn EDZ BID Area, however much of what you walk, cycle or drive past as you come onto the area is their due to the BID, whether this be the CCTV system, new signs, landscaping or litter free streets its all due to our decision 15 years ago to support the BID, which is why I will be voting yes to support the next 5 years of BID Success"

Caroline James
MD @ Trevor Dawson

About the Business Improvement District

This plan has been produced by the BID Board using feedback from telephone calls, email communications, surveys and face to face meetings with companies.

Through this plan the BID board have set out a new five year programme of investment to drive forward a sustained programme of maintenance and improvements that will benefit businesses and employees throughout the BID term.

The Blackburn EDZ BID was one of the UK's first BIDs, and subsequently BIDs have been widely adopted across the UK, and demonstrated their proven ability to create improved, stronger and more successful trading environments.

We have seen this evidenced over the last 15 years through the projects and services the current BID has delivered in crime prevention and security, signage and landscape improvements and business support packages.

These projects have stimulated new inward investment within existing companies and attracted further inward investment from new businesses opening in vacant units across the BID area.

All eligible businesses across the BID area will have the opportunity to vote in a postal ballot in July / August 2022. For the BID to be approved, a majority will need to vote in favour of the proposal from the number of votes cast, and these will need to include a majority of rateable value from votes cast in favour of approving the proposal.



What the successor BID will deliver

- ✓ Over £700,000 of added value investment to enhance Greenbank, Furthergate and Whitebirk business parks
- ✓ A safer, secure and more resilient trading environment
- ✓ Pro-active, regular added value litter picks, maintenance works and landscaping
- ✓ New added value image enhancement and signage projects
- ✓ Additional investments into crime prevention and security projects including CCTV, pro-active management of illegal incursions and antisocial behaviour risks.
- ✓ A single dedicated estate management service to respond to issues and support your business to take forward opportunities for improvement.
- ✓ Net Zero Road Map - Development of opportunities to support your business achieve net zero and access low carbon, renewable based energy networks.
- ✓ Access to business support packages, grants and training to enable our businesses to grow and prosper.

“Since the introduction of the BID, reported crime has reduced dramatically in the area, crime is down 66% and problem grot spots have been eradicated, 5000 bags of litter were removed through our work in the last 5 years”

What will happen without a BID for Blackburn EDZ

- ✗ Increased levels of litter (without the BID there would be 5000 additional bags of litter in the EDZ BID area over the last 5 years).
- ✗ No pro-active response to fly tipping and antisocial behaviour threats
- ✗ Risks of increased levels of crime and security risks
- ✗ No additional maintenance of planting schemes, signage maintenance and landscape projects developed through the Blackburn EDZ BID
- ✗ No scope to maintain the new CCTV project
- ✗ No single dedicated body that will provide you with a collective voice to address problems on your business park with Blackburn with Darwen Council
- ✗ Ending of the Blackburn EDZ BID dedicated website, newsletters and e-communications.
- ✗ No capacity to develop net zero plans to deliver a resilient, low carbon local energy network.
- ✗ Closure of the dedicated BID team to support you with co-ordinating issues and opportunities in the estate.
- ✗ Loss of the BID's capacity to enable close partnership working with Blackburn with Darwen Council, the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership, and Lancashire Constabulary.

BID 4 Development Business Consultation

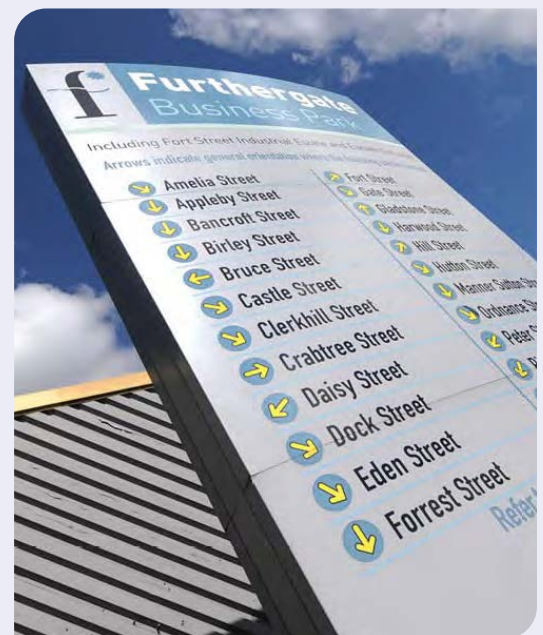
During 2021/2022 we invited all businesses across the Blackburn EDZ BID area to share their views about the projects and services that could be delivered through a successor BID.

We have heard back from more than 70 business across all sizes and sectors through independent consultation work who have provided their ideas and thoughts on what is needed to continue to support the three business parks that make up the Blackburn EDZ BID.

This consultation work has formed the basis for developing this plan for a successor Business Improvement District.

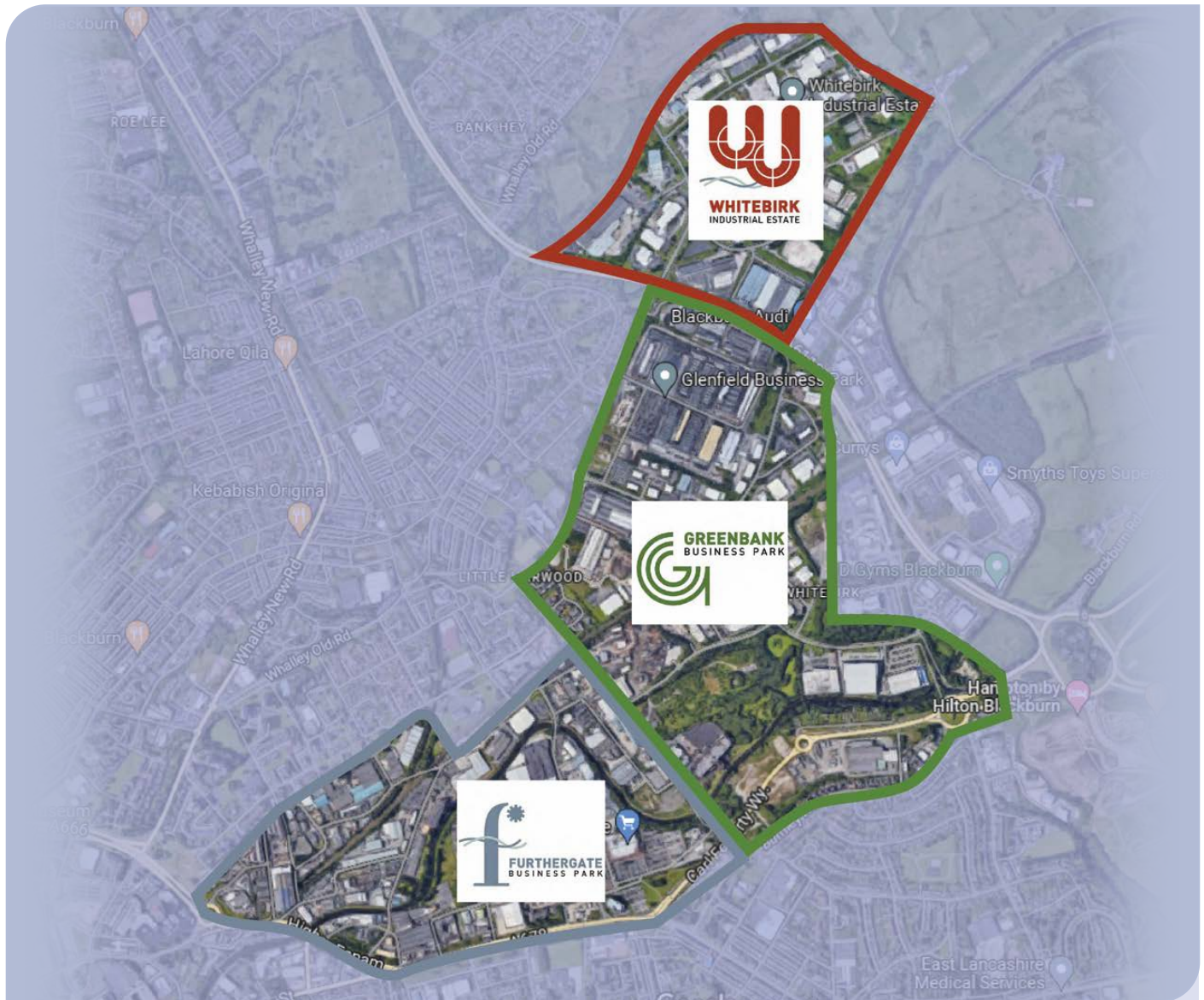
Feedback from businesses has been:

- ▶ 70% rate highly the importance of the CCTV provided by the BID with 80% keen to see the CCTV project continue
- ▶ 77% of respondents place a high degree of importance on security and crime in any future developments of the BID
- ▶ 71% rate as high or moderate importance the estate warden service (which delivers a high quality, tidy and litter free environment across the BID)
- ▶ Signage is rated as high or moderate by 60% of businesses, however 40% of respondents rate signage as low or low to moderate in terms of its provision highlighting an opportunity to improve the provision of signage for some areas



The Blackburn EDZ BID Area

The East Blackburn Business Parks BID area covers the Furthergate, Greenbank and Whitebirk business parks. It includes the following roads within the boundary:



- ▶ Appleby Street
- ▶ Bancroft Street
- ▶ Birley Street
- ▶ Blakewater Road
- ▶ Burnley Close
- ▶ Carl Fogerty Way
- ▶ Castle Street
- ▶ Challenge Way
- ▶ Cheery Street
- ▶ Cleaver Street
- ▶ Clerkhill Street
- ▶ Copy Nook
- ▶ Crabtree Street
- ▶ Croft Head Road
- ▶ Cunliffe Road
- ▶ Daisy Street
- ▶ Davies Road
- ▶ Dock Street
- ▶ Dyneley Road
- ▶ Eden Street
- ▶ Forrest Street
- ▶ Fort Street
- ▶ Gate Street
- ▶ Gladstone Street
- ▶ Gorse Street
- ▶ Greenbank Road
- ▶ Harwood Street
- ▶ Higher Eanam
- ▶ Hill Street
- ▶ Hole House Street
- ▶ Hutton Street
- ▶ Kenyon Street
- ▶ Lower Phillips Road
- ▶ Manner Sutton Street
- ▶ Milton Street
- ▶ Percliff Way
- ▶ Peter Street
- ▶ Phillips Road
- ▶ Pickup Street
- ▶ Quarry Street
- ▶ St Clements Street
- ▶ Stanley Street
- ▶ Sutton Street
- ▶ Thornley Avenue
- ▶ Whitebirk Drive (part of)
- ▶ Woolwich Street

The Blackburn EDZ BID Three Step Plan: 2022-2027

THE BLACKBURN EDZ BID THREE STEP PLAN

1

**INVESTING IN PRO-ACTIVE SECURITY
AND CRIME PREVENTION**

2

**CREATING A HIGH QUALITY, LITTER
FREE ATTRACTIVE ENVIRONMENT
FOR BUSINESS**

3

**SUPPORTING BUSINESSES AND
PROGRESSING TOWARDS NET-ZERO
CARBON EMISSIONS**

What the Blackburn EDZ BID will deliver between 2022–2027

THEME ONE – SECURITY AND CRIME PREVENTION

Prior to the BID installing CCTV in 2007, the area was subject to significant levels of criminal activity with nearly 200 criminal incidents a year. The BID's co-ordinated approach to tackling crime has helped reduce key categories of reported crime over 60% since 2007, equating to more than 100 criminal incidents being deterred and prevented each year.

In the last two years the BID has re-invested £80,000 into the 28 camera CCTV system, installing new cameras, repairing non-functioning cameras and delivering a fully operational CCTV system.

Therefore this proposal will deliver the following measures aiming to prevent and reduce crime;

Management of the 24/7 CCTV Network

The CCTV network covering strategic locations across the BID area will be monitored 24/7 through a manned CCTV monitoring station.

The CCTV Hub operates 24/7 and has access to both CCTV images and police radios to provide a reactive and proactive response to incidents throughout the area.

Maintenance of the CCTV Network

The 2022-27 BID will maintain recent investments into the CCTV network of cameras and the CCTV network infrastructure providing:

- Maintenance of CCTV infrastructure to ensure the CCTV system remains resilient and delivered to the expected performance levels demanded by a modern CCTV network
- Provision of high quality CCTV images
- Live Monitoring 24/7 from state of the art CCTV Control Centre in Blackburn
- On-going pro-active communication with the CCTV Control Centre to monitor the performance of every camera in the network on a weekly basis

A New 24/7 Rapid Text Service

The BID will introduce a 'Rapid Text' service to provide real time intelligence on incidents across Greenbank, Furthergate and Whitebirk business parks. This new service will enable businesses to report and share security threats and risks with neighbouring companies to raise awareness of risks from suspicious incidents, crime occurrences and general security threats.

Crime Updates

The BID will work with Lancashire Constabulary to provide regular email updates regarding potential crime or security threats. Unless a co-ordinated approach to tackling crime is maintained through the continuation of the BID, CCTV will be withdrawn from the area resulting in increases of crime, fly tipping and littering, a decrease in property values, increased insurance premiums and unmanaged risks to employees and visitors accessing Greenbank, Furthergate and Whitebirk business parks.

Vote YES for Security & Crime Prevention

- 1 Pro-actively monitored 28 camera CCTV Network
- 2 Rapid sharing of information about 'live' security threats and risks
- 3 A safer environment for employees and customers
- 4 Improved detection rates
- 5 Proven deterrent against theft, arson, vandalism, damage to property and fly tipping



"Maintaining a safe and secure environment for business is an important priority for companies across Greenbank, Furthergate and Whitebirk business parks. Whilst day-to-day crime levels remain low, we cant afford to be complacent, the small investment we all make to support the BID will be essential to deterring and preventing future increases in crime and security threats"

Altaf Khanjra,
MD @ Khanjra International Foods

What the Blackburn EDZ BID will deliver between 2022–2027

THEME TWO - IMAGE ENHANCEMENT, CLEANER AND GREENER

The business park warden scheme enhances the image of all three business parks and responds to issues of vandalism, fly tipping and graffiti. Should the BID not be continued, the programmes of works delivered by the BID will no longer maintain the area and this service will cease.

Should the BID continue, it will provide a service over and above the basic services provided by the local authority and will cover:

Litter Picking

A programme of litter picking will continue for the area (outside of business boundaries) including the removal of litter in shrubs. Litter bins will be maintained and emptied in problem areas.

Environmental Crime and Fly Tipping

Monitoring of the area, identifying vandalism, fly tipping and graffiti issues. The BID will work with the local authority, police and CCTV monitoring team to identify those responsible and to ensure the efficient repair of street furniture and removal of waste. The warden service will respond to reports of fly tipping ensuring swift action is taken to clear illegally fly-tipped waste.



“Looks count. An attractive business park attracts quality businesses and creates a positive impression for our customers, employees and suppliers alike. This proposal for a BID will go a long way to help create an enhanced and much improved trading environment here on Blackburn EDZ.”

Peter Weddle,
Director @ Gillibrand Accident Repair Centre



Landscape & Signage Improvements

Undertaking a programme of landscape maintenance cutting back shrubs from public footpaths and ensuring estate signs are visible.

Drug and Substance Abuse

Evidence of drug taking has been repeatedly found in the BID area in recent years. The BID will raise any evidence of drug taking with the local authority’s Drug Action Team.

Getting the basics right and lobbying for improvements

The BID will work with the Local Authority to ensure statutory cleaning and maintenance services for the business parks are delivered, ensuring that standards of grass cutting, street cleansing, drain clearing, etc are maintained and where possible improved. The BID will also encourage individual businesses to maintain their sites to good standards of housekeeping.

Vote YES for Image Enhancement, Cleaner and Greener

1

A great first impression for visitors, customers & staff

2

Landscape improvements

3

Improved safety for staff and customers, proactively tackling problems and incidents when they arise

4

Rapid response to fly tipping and environmental crime

What the Blackburn EDZ BID will deliver between 2022–2027

THEME THREE - BUSINESS SUPPORT, RECRUITMENT AND NET-ZERO

During the COVID pandemic the role and value of the BID in disseminating essential information about grants and business support during this difficult time became critically important for many companies.

The BID will continue to disseminate essential grant and business support information to support companies to grow and prosper, signposting companies to funding opportunities from Lancashire's business support community including the Chamber of Commerce, Boost Lancashire and support from Universities and Colleges.

Through BID 4 the BID will develop new opportunities for supporting businesses across Greenbank, Furthergate and Whitebirk business parks to address the challenges and opportunities presented by Net-Zero, rising energy costs, the move to electric vehicle charging and difficulties recruiting staff in the current labour market.

Under Theme Three the BID will deliver:

The Blackburn EDZ BID Management Service

A dedicated BID team supporting your business tackle issues that affect the business park and your company.

Regular news updates and grant information.

Production of regular communications and publications for all businesses highlighting news stories, opportunities to access grants and wider business support opportunities.

Net-Zero, Energy and Sustainability Support

Net-Zero Support - Sustainable business support projects/initiatives will be developed with partner organisations to support companies to respond to the Net-Zero agenda. These could include carbon literacy training, feasibility assessments for smart renewable energy networks, business resilience support to manage extreme weather conditions and energy audits.

Recruitment Support

The BID will work with government funded recruitment support projects, to enable companies to access new opportunities for recruiting skilled and employable staff.

Attracting Inward Investment

www.blackburnedzbid.co.uk

The BID will continue to develop and maintain the Blackburn EDZ BID website, to maintain the positive on-line narrative about the high quality environment for business. The website will aim to attract new inward investment into the Blackburn EDZ BID area, share positive news stories from BID companies and highlight the successes from BID projects.

Vote YES for Business, Net-Zero and Recruitment Support

1

Rapid access to information on grants and business support

2

Support responding to the challenges from Net-Zero, energy cost inflation and renewables.

3

Access to government funded recruitment support

4

A BID team working to support your business



"Graeme and his team have been extremely proactive whenever we have contacted them. They have provided us with a fantastic service which has ensured the business park is maintained to a high standard."

Matthew Walker,
Director @ Donald Lomax & Partners Ltd.

How the BID will operate

The Business Improvement District will be directed by a Board of eligible businesses and organisations from across the Business Improvement District area. The BID Board will meet a minimum of 6 times a year. The BID Board will include representation from the key sectors, representation from a range of business types and sizes, including smaller independent businesses and businesses that are part of larger groups.

The BID Board will invite to relevant meetings Blackburn with Darwen Council and Lancashire Constabulary in an advisory capacity. This is in addition to their option to put forward a formal BID Board member where they are occupiers of hereditaments within the BID area. The BID Board will select a Chair and Vice Chair from the membership of the BID Board to lead the Blackburn EDZ BID Business Improvement District.

Any business/organisation with a liability for payment of a BID levy will be able to put a representative forward for appointment onto the Board, which will be elected through an annual meeting of members of the Business Improvement District.

The BID will be managed by Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire & Merseyside. Groundwork are a not-for-profit registered charity and limited company, established in 1983. Groundwork have operated specialist Business Improvement District management services since 2005. These services have supported multiple business park and town centre locations to develop successful BID programmes including nine other locations across the north of England.

Groundwork will be the BID body, accountable for managing the receipt of income and subsequent delivery of services in the Blackburn EDZ BID area taking direction from the BID Board. The Blackburn EDZ BID will operate for five years between the period 1st October 2022 through to the 30th September 2027. The BID will commence 56 days after the notice of the results of the Ballot (expected 5th August 2022).



The BID Levy

- ▶ Blackburn with Darwen Council will be responsible for billing and collecting the levy on behalf of the Business Improvement District. The payment of the BID levy must be paid in full within 30 days of the BID levy invoice being issued, except where a company enters into an instalment plan where this is offered. Blackburn with Darwen Council will pursue any non-payment of the BID levy in accordance with its usual procedures for the collection of non-domestic rates.
- ▶ No relief is being offered to businesses, charities or particular sectors with the exception of those businesses occupying hereditaments with a rateable value of £9,999 or less, which are exempt.
- ▶ Any new hereditaments added to the Non Domestic Rating List during the initiative will be liable to pay the levy.
- ▶ A business that is in occupation of a hereditament on the 1st October will be liable for the BID levy for that year. The levy will be collected by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council as a single payment. Where a property is vacant on the 1st October the liability to pay the annual BID levy will revert to the legal occupier (eg leasehold or freehold interest, etc)
- ▶ The annual BID levy will be fixed for the lifetime of the BID, except in circumstances where the BID Body considers that the level of levy collected is not sufficient to cover the cost of delivering the BID's services. In such circumstances any increase in the value of the levy will be no more than the levels of inflation as reported by Government since the establishment of the BID on the 1st October 2022.
- ▶ The current rating list is based on the 2017 valuation. Levy payments will be based on the 2017 valuation and remain fixed for the period of the BID in line with the values at the time of the BID ballot except where any new streets are subsequently created and any new, refurbished or reconstructed hereditaments subsequently entered into the Non-Domestic Rates list and falling in the BID area. In these circumstances hereditaments will become liable for a new/varied BID levy towards the Blackburn EDZ BID and the income and expenditure budgets will be amended in line with this variation to enable the BID to invest at the new levels of income available.
- ▶ Where the level of income recovered through the BID levies charged is greater than the forecast level, this additional income will be used to support further investments by the BID, and the income budgets amended to reflect this new income.
- ▶ Vacant properties, or those undergoing refurbishment will be liable for the BID levy. This includes premises which have temporarily been zero rated from a value above £9,999 during the refurbishment (in which case the last valuation before zero rating will apply). The liability will fall to the registered occupier of the premises, who may be the property owner. In these circumstances, it will be the registered business rate payer at the time that the notice of ballot is issued who will be entitled to vote in the BID ballot.
- ▶ In any circumstances where an overpayment has been made, for example if a hereditament is revalued at a lower value, a credit will be given for the BID levy only where a written notification and request is received within 3 months of the BID levy date.

The BID levy is based on the following banding system:

BAND	RV BAND (£)	ANNUAL CHARGE	Daily Equivalent Charge
EXEMPT	0-9,999	£0	£0
A	10,000 - 17,499	£394	£1.08
B	17,500 - 24,999	£506	£1.39
C	25,000 - 49,999	£731	£2.00
D	50,000 - 99,999	£956	£2.62
E	100,000 - 199,999	£1,125	£3.08
F	200,00 - 499,999	£1,688	£4.62
G	500,00+	£2,250	£6.16

Finances - Income and Expenditure

Income Profile						
Year	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	Total
BID Levy Contribution (£)	141,000	141,000	141,000	141,000	141,000	705,000
Surplus b/f from BID 3* (£)	30,000					30,000
Grand Total (£)	171,000	141,000	141,000	141,000	141,000	735,000
Annual Surplus / Deceft (£)	32,509	33,818	32,015	27,078	9,484	9,484

Expenditure Profile						
Theme One - Security and Crime Prevention (£)	46,750	48,750	50,750	52,750	54,750	253,750
Theme Two - Image Enhancement, Cleaner and Greener (£)	55,595	55,595	56,707	57,841	58,998	284,736
Theme Three - Co-ordinated and Supported Business Community (£)	20,000	20,400	20,808	21,224	21,649	104,081
Project Management and Administration Costs (£)	16,146	14,946	14,538	14,122	23,197	82,949
Total (£)	138,491	139,691	142,803	145,937	158,594	725,516

The BID area, themes, governance and management arrangements and overall BID levy values and terms can only be altered via an alteration or renewal ballot. All other arrangements including specific projects and the percentage of funding allocated to each theme within the BID may be altered within the constraints of the overall BID budget without the need for an alteration or renewal ballot. No development costs will be recovered from the BID levy.

Performance Monitoring

The BID will monitor and report on a range of key performance indicators (KPIs) including:

- ▶ Crime and Safety - Incidence of crime statistics
- ▶ Business community perceptions
- ▶ Vacancy rates (where data is available)
- ▶ Project output data e.g. number of bags of litter removed, antisocial behaviour / fly tipping incidents reported and or managed

Reporting the work of the BID to Levy Payers

The level of progress made on the delivery of the Business Improvement District will be reported to businesses on a regular basis by the Business Improvement District Board through the following communication channels:

- ▶ BID Financial Statement - A BID financial statement will be issued with each BID levy demand. This statement will detail the plans for expenditure by the BID in the forthcoming 12 months and also report on the finances of the BID and key achievements from the previous 12 months.
- ▶ The Blackburn EDZ Business Improvement District Annual General Meeting.
- ▶ Blackburn EDZ Business Improvement District Annual Report and Accounts.
- ▶ Regular website and social media updates and e-bulletin.
- ▶ Project output data eg number of bags of litter removed, antisocial behaviour / fly tipping incidents reported and or managed

The Ballot

An eligible non-domestic ratepayer (business ratepayer with a rateable value above £9,999) will be entitled to vote if they are listed as a non-domestic ratepayer on the date the notice of ballot is published. Each business ratepayer entitled to vote shall have one vote in respect of each hereditament (premises/building with an individual rateable value) in the geographical area of the Business Improvement District on which non-domestic rates are payable.

For the Business Improvement District to Proceed there must be:

- ▶ A majority voting in favour of the proposal from the number of votes cast
- ▶ A majority in level of rateable value from votes cast in favour of approving the proposal

The Ballot Timetable

Ballot papers will be sent out to reach eligible businesses on or after the **7th July 2022**.

The ballot will close at 5pm on **4th August 2022**.

The result of the ballot will be declared on the **5th August 2022** or as soon as possible after this date.

Baseline Agreements

To ensure that the Business Improvement District does not fund statutory services provided by Blackburn with Darwen Council, the Business Improvement District Board will only make investments into projects and services that are in addition to the statutory services provided by Blackburn with Darwen Council.

