



2023/2024

**Blackburn EDZ BID
End of Year Report**



Introduction



The Blackburn EDZ BID End of Year Report highlights the key initiatives and successes delivered over the past 12 months, along with our plans for the year ahead.

This report is for businesses and stakeholders across the Blackburn Economic Development Zone (EDZ) – providing a clear picture of how your BID levy has been used to improve security, enhance the environment, and support businesses.

We remain focused on tackling shared challenges, improving the trading environment, and helping businesses in Greenbank, Furthergate, and Whitebirk Industrial Estates succeed.

This report outlines the progress made so far and the priorities we will build on in the coming year.



Message from Shirley Blackledge, Assistant Project Manager

This year, I've been out on the ground engaging with businesses across the Blackburn EDZ and it's been a fantastic opportunity to really understand what matters to you.

While I haven't had the chance to meet everyone yet, I'm always keen to hear from you – whether it's to raise concerns, share ideas or even just have a chat.

Your feedback has already enabled us to bring new businesses onto the Board, representing a wider range of sectors and I'm excited to see this engagement grow further.

In this report, you'll find details of what we've achieved together this year. From improving security with our CCTV network and Rapid Text Alert System, to enhancing the environment

through signage and waste management, every project reflects the BID's commitment to making Blackburn EDZ a safer, cleaner, and better-connected place to do business. You'll also see how we've worked to provide tailored business support and introduced initiatives to help businesses tackle recruitment and sustainability challenges.

A big highlight for me has been the recent work on signage across the EDZ. Improving the look and feel of the area not only benefits those who work here but also sets the right tone for future investment and growth.

From clearer directions to smart, clean designs, every improvement helps make Blackburn EDZ a more welcoming and connected place for all of us. I look forward to building on this work next year and continuing to support businesses across the estate.



“Your feedback has already enabled us to bring new businesses onto the Board, representing a wider range of sectors...”

Message from the BID Board Chair, Peter Weddle

It's been a challenging year for businesses but the BID's continued investment in the area remains a positive step forward.

I'm particularly pleased with the progress we've made on improving signage and enhancing engagement with businesses across the estate. These efforts alongside the BID's work on CCTV and cleansing are vital in ensuring the EDZ maintains a positive image that will encourage further investment.

Having been involved in this area for many years, I know the importance of strong partnerships and consistent improvements. While there's always more work to be done, it's encouraging to see real progress being made.



The Blackburn EDZ BID Area

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

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



What We Delivered in 2023/2024

Theme One – Security and Crime Prevention

- ✓ **Proactive monitoring of the 28-camera CCTV system** to ensure it remains robust, reliable and fully operational. We've increased CCTV signage across the estate, further deterring unwanted activity and providing businesses with peace of mind.
- ✓ Launched the **Rapid Text Alert System**, providing real-time intelligence on incidents across Greenbank, Furthergate and Whitebirk. To date, 50 businesses have signed up to receive immediate updates on suspicious activity or crime. Simply call 0333 121 0393 to register or send a Rapid Text.
- ✓ Held monthly meetings with the neighbourhood policing team, ensuring businesses can report concerns, discuss challenges and connect with local officers for advice and support.
- ✓ **Attended Lancashire Partnership Against Crime (LANPAC)** meetings to stay ahead of emerging trends and ensure businesses remain informed about local and regional security developments.
- ✓ Kept businesses updated through regular B2B newsletters, offering news, guidance and BID updates to support day-to-day operations.



Blackburn EDZ BID has made significant strides in community safety through its CCTV initiative, aiding in 95 incidents from January to December 2024.

This achievement underscores the vital role of surveillance in enhancing local security. Visual updates, including a comparison of the area before and after hedge maintenance, are in progress to further illustrate these efforts.

What We Delivered in 2023/2024 (Continued)

Theme Two – Image Enhancement, Cleaner and Greener

- ✓ The BID's Green Team continued to deliver an enhanced litter-picking service across the EDZ, **removing 2,260kg of waste** from estate boundaries, shrubbery and communal areas.
- ✓ Tackled hotspot areas proactively by installing targeted signage to deter littering and improve the overall appearance of the area.
- ✓ Worked with Blackburn with Darwen Council to ensure public spaces remain clean and well-maintained. Over the year, **we reported and resolved 60+ maintenance issues**, including potholes, street lighting and damaged infrastructure.
- ✓ **Addressed 32 incidents of fly-tipping**, working quickly to report and coordinate removal with the local authority to ensure minimal disruption to businesses.
- ✓ Refreshed and revitalised the large directional signage across the EDZ with modern, professional designs to reflect the estate's commitment to security, connectivity and business pride.



Theme Three – Business Support, Recruitment and Net-Zero

- ✓ **Delivered one-to-one engagement with 86 businesses**, listening to challenges, offering tailored advice and ensuring businesses benefit from BID-funded services.
- ✓ Welcomed new businesses with Welcome Packs, introducing them to the Blackburn EDZ BID and providing information on how they can access support.
- ✓ Provided regular updates through newsletters and emails, including funding opportunities, grants and success stories that celebrate our local businesses.
- ✓ Partnered with specialist providers, including **BOOST Lancashire** and **Training 2000**, to offer recruitment support and promote workforce development services.
- ✓ **Supported businesses on their Net-Zero journey** by hosting workshops and offering one-to-one sessions with sustainability specialists to help businesses reduce carbon emissions and plan for a greener future.



Accounts

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT For the year ended 30th September 2024		
Income	2023/24	2022/23
BID Levy Income	£122,772.00	£181,139.00
Bank Interest	£973.00	£328.00
Total	£123,745.00	£181,647.00
Expenditure		
Theme One - Security & Crime Prevention	£38,413.00	£38,159.00
Theme Two - Image Enhancement	£50,157.00	£50,000.00
Theme Three - Business Support	£900.00	£203.00
Operating Costs	£40,128.00	£36,762.00
Levy Collection Costs	£8,205.00	£ -
Total	£137,803.00	£125,124.00
Summary		
Project Provisions	(£320.00)	(£302.00)
Prior Year Surplus	£56,041.00	£ -
Year End Position	£41,663.00	£56,041.00

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If you have any questions or need support, please don't hesitate to get in touch – your BID team is here to help.

