



**Blackburn EDZ BID**  
**End of Year Report**  
**2024/2025**

# Introduction

**Across 2024/2025, Blackburn EDZ BID delivered activity throughout the EDZ, supporting businesses across Greenbank, Furthergate and Whitebirk with a focus on safety, cleanliness and day-to-day business support.**

Work during the year included CCTV monitoring, environmental maintenance, direct engagement with businesses and practical support around recruitment and sustainability. Priorities were shaped by regular feedback from businesses, alongside close working with partner organisations.

This End of Year Report outlines what has been delivered and how levy funding has been used to support businesses operating across the three estates.

## Message from Shirley Blackledge, Assistant Project Manager

This year has been about visibility and responsiveness across the estates, particularly when issues needed dealing with quickly or where coordination with partners was required.

Much of my time has been spent working alongside businesses, the police and the local authority on safety, CCTV activity and environmental concerns. In practice, this has often meant being on site, responding to incidents, tracking patterns and following issues through to make sure they were resolved.

Regular contact with businesses has also helped keep support around training, recruitment and sustainability relevant and accessible. Feedback continues to shape how the BID operates day to day, helping focus time and resource where it makes the most difference.

This report sets out what has been delivered during 2024/2025 and the practical difference that work is making across Greenbank, Furthergate and Whitebirk.



“ This year has been about being visible on site and responding quickly when issues arise. ”



## Message from Peter Weddle, BID Board Chair

Across the EDZ, businesses continue to invest, adapt and look ahead, with opportunity across the estates.

The role of the BID is to help create the right conditions for success, both by responding to immediate pressures and by investing in activity that supports long-term growth.

As Chair, my role is to provide oversight and ensure that BID activity matches the priorities of levy payers. Throughout the year, the Board has worked closely with the BID team and partners to guide delivery across the three core themes, making sure levy funding is targeted where it can make the greatest difference.

The EDZ plays a critical role in supporting the estates, providing a collective voice, practical support and a framework for coordinated investment.

This End of Year Report demonstrates how levy funding has been used responsibly and effectively, while also setting out a clear platform for the year ahead.



“  
The EDZ plays a critical role in supporting the success of the estates, providing a collective voice  
”

## The Blackburn EDZ BID Board



### Peter Weddle - Gillibrand (Chair)

Caroline James - Trevor Dawson (Vice Chair)

Jimmy Hindle - Great Harwood Windows

Panache Atherton - Pets Choice

Rachel Proctor - Valeo

Kelly Brankin - Millercare

Faith Imade - Hippo Motors

Greg Smith - CGS Recovery

### Advisory Board Members

Clare Turner - BwD Council (Growth and Development)

John Bonny - BwD Council (CCTV)

Emam Mohammed - Lancashire Police

### Delivery Team

Shirley Blackledge - Assistant Project Manager

Adam Gerrard - Operations Manager

Jane Hough - Deputy Director for BIDs

Greville Kelly - Director for Business

## The Blackburn EDZ BID Area

The Blackburn EDZ BID supports businesses across the Furthergate, Greenbank and Whitebirk business parks, covering the East Blackburn Economic Development Zone.

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



# What We Delivered in 2024/2025

## Theme One: Security and Crime Prevention

- ✓ **Safety sits at the centre of BID activity**, with work focused on visible security measures, incident response and ongoing liaison with local police and partner agencies.
- ✓ **A 28 camera CCTV network** is operated and monitored across the estates, providing coverage that supports businesses and emergency services. Over the year, CCTV assisted with **144 incidents**, including road traffic incidents, locating persons, assaults, criminal damage, anti-social behaviour and monitoring requests.
- ✓ **Police feedback, CCTV activity and reports** from businesses helped confirm that crime levels across the EDZ remain generally low.
- ✓ During scheduled maintenance visits, we **identified visibility issues linked to tree growth and environmental factors**. This led to targeted vegetation cutbacks, camera lens cleaning and the identification of locations where cameras may need upgrading to 360-degree units to improve coverage.
- ✓ **Regular contact with local police supported information sharing and coordination**, including signing up to the Blackburn Neighbourhood Alert Scheme, attendance at multi-agency meetings, briefings and training sessions and involvement in Lancashire Partnership Against Crime meetings to stay informed on local and regional crime trends.
- ✓ **Crime prevention advice, reporting guidance and updates on emerging scams** were shared through bi-monthly newsletters and direct email communications. Encouraging businesses to report incidents has helped inform police activity, including targeted patrols in specific locations where needed.



### What this has delivered:

Clearer awareness of crime patterns, closer working relationships with police and a more proactive approach to crime prevention across the estates.

# 28

CCTV cameras operating and monitored across the estates

# 144

## incidents

Caught by CCTV network across the area





# 6.11

## tonnes

of waste collected  
over the year

## Theme Two: Image Enhancement, Cleaner and Greener

- ✓ **Maintaining clean, safe and welcoming estates** remained a core priority throughout the year.
- ✓ Activity focused on **improving visibility, addressing environmental issues and responding quickly** when concerns were raised by businesses.
- ✓ **All directional totem signage across the estates was upgraded**, replacing outdated and poor quality signage with a simpler, more consistent design. While the upgrades were not intended to significantly change navigation, they improved clarity and legibility, removed visual clutter and created a more professional and cohesive look and feel.
- ✓ The updated signage also reinforces key security messages, including **the presence of CCTV across the estates**, helping to create an environment that feels cleaner and safer.
- ✓ **Site visits identified additional gateway signage enhancement locations** and supported coordination with contractors to deliver clean ups, vegetation cutbacks and treatment of trees, shrubs and weeds. Signage condition was monitored throughout the year, with issues such as graffiti, vandalism and damaged or missing plates addressed where identified.
- ✓ **Environmental maintenance included regular grass cutting on a two weekly cycle**, adjusted seasonally, alongside hedge management, growth monitoring and planned autumn cutbacks to maintain shared areas.
- ✓ Fly tipping remained a challenge across many industrial estates and continued to require regular monitoring and follow up. **During the year, 36 incidents were logged and reported to the local authority to ensure removal** and support was also provided to private landowners through advice and signage to help address ongoing issues on privately owned land.
- ✓ **Targeted action included the installation of 16 warning signs in identified hotspot areas**, including locations affected by the misuse of nitrous oxide canisters. Across the estates, 6.11 tonnes of waste were collected over the year, largely made up of fast food litter. This was addressed through ongoing monitoring, reporting and follow up activity to help keep communal areas clean and well managed.
- ✓ **More than 50 environmental and maintenance issues were reported** during the year, including toxic smoke concerns, faulty street lighting, damaged street furniture and areas where food litter had attracted vermin. Reporting helped secure faster responses from the relevant authorities.
- ✓ **Furthermore, businesses affected by unauthorised traveller encampments were supported** through close working with relevant agencies. In one instance, the BID helped expedite an encampment being moved on and coordinated a clean up of the affected site, minimising disruption to the business involved.

### In practical terms, this has delivered:

Cleaner, better maintained  
estates, improved visibility and  
quicker responses to environmental  
and maintenance issues.

## Theme Three: Business Support, Recruitment and Net Zero

- ✓ **Direct, regular contact with businesses** remained central to BID activity.
- ✓ Over the year, **98 one-to-one business engagements were completed through visits, calls and emails**. This helped identify issues early and ensured businesses were aware of available support and contact details were kept up to date to maintain effective communication. New businesses joining the estates were welcomed through introductory meetings and welcome packs, with contact details logged from the outset and bi-monthly newsletters shared updates on BID activity, safety alerts, funding opportunities, training, job opportunities and positive news from across the EDZ.
- ✓ **Recruitment, workforce development and training were supported through partner organisations**, including BOOST Lancashire and Training 2000. This covered asbestos awareness, cyber security, legionella safety, mental health awareness in partnership with RLC, and sustainability training.
- ✓ **Businesses were also given access to webinars and personal advice on carbon footprinting, renewable energy and meeting Net Zero requirements**. Engagement with partner agencies supported both one-to-one and group advice on sustainability and Net Zero.
- ✓ **Quarterly Board meetings and the Annual Business Forum** provided space to review activity, discuss priorities and encourage greater business involvement. It also brought businesses together to share experiences and build connections across the EDZ.

### What this has delivered:

Stronger relationships with businesses, clearer routes to advice and training, and better support around sustainability and future planning.



### Quarterly Board meetings

and the Annual Business Forum provided space to review activity,

# 98

one-to-one business engagements were completed through visits, calls and emails

# Accounts

## Income & Expenditure account For the year ended 30th September 2025

Income	2024/25	2023/24
BID Levy Income	£159,734	£122,772
Bank Interest	£640	£973
<b>Total</b>	<b>£160,374</b>	<b>£123,745</b>

Expenditure	2024/25	2023/24
<b>Theme One</b> - Security & Crime Prevention	£39,109	£38,413
<b>Theme Two</b> - Image Enhancement	£66,805	£50,157
<b>Theme Three</b> - Business Support	£1,172	£900
Operating Costs	£40,310	£40,128
Levy Collection Costs	£4,837	£8,205
<b>Total</b>	<b>£152,233</b>	<b>£137,803</b>

Summary	2024/25	2023/24
Project Provisions	(£339)	(£320)
Prior Year Surplus	£41,663	£56,041
<b>Year End Position</b>	<b>£49,465</b>	<b>£41,663</b>



## Contact Details



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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.

