



The Blackburn EDZ BID

Economic Development Zone
Business Improvement District



Blackburn EDZ BID BID Levy Leaflet 2026

What is the BID?

The Blackburn EDZ Business Improvement District (BID) is a partnership between businesses across Furthergate Business Park, Greenbank Business Park and Whitebirk Industrial Estate, working together with a range of local partners and stakeholders.

The BID's vision is to create a safer, cleaner, more attractive and supportive trading environment for businesses, employees and visitors across the EDZ area.

The business community voted to approve the BID, which runs for a five-year term from October 2022 to October 2027.

Businesses within the BID area contribute through a small additional payment, known as the BID levy. This levy is ring-fenced and invested directly back into the BID area, funding projects and initiatives that aim to deliver tangible benefits for local businesses.

The BID works closely with businesses and partners to identify local priorities and deliver projects focused on areas such as business safety and security, CCTV, environmental improvements, cleaning, maintenance, business engagement and support.

This leaflet provides an overview of the projects and services delivered by the Blackburn EDZ BID and highlights how your BID levy is being invested to improve the local trading environment.

What projects were supported, delivered or funded by the BID in 2025 - 2026

THEME ONE - SECURITY AND CRIME PREVENTION

Keeping businesses, employees and visitors safe remains a key priority for the Blackburn EDZ BID. During 2025-2026, the BID continued to invest in CCTV, crime prevention and partnership working to help businesses respond to incidents and stay informed about local risks.

During the year, the BID:

- Operated and maintained a 28-camera CCTV network providing 24/7 coverage across the EDZ.
- Used CCTV to support businesses and the police, with cameras assisting with over 64 incidents
- Shared crime prevention advice, scam alerts, reporting guidance and information about emerging issues through regular newsletters and targeted communications.
- Supported the removal of unauthorised travellers who had arrived on the estate.
- Worked closely with local police, security partners and businesses to share information and respond to concerns.
- Encouraged businesses to report incidents and share intelligence, helping to build a clearer picture of crime and anti-social behaviour across the area.

By maintaining a visible security presence and strengthening links between businesses and key partners, the BID has helped businesses stay informed and better equipped to prevent and respond to crime.



THEME TWO - IMAGE ENHANCEMENT, CLEANER AND GREENER

A clean, well-maintained business environment makes a difference to the businesses that operate here, as well as the employees, customers and visitors who use the estates. In 2025-2026, the BID continued to invest in practical environmental services and improvements across Furthergate, Greenbank and Whitebirk.

During the year, the BID:

- Collected 4 tonnes of waste, including takeaway packaging, plastic bottles and general litter.
- Reported and supported the removal of 39 incidents of fly-tipping.
- Identified and resolved 42 maintenance and environmental issues raised through BID monitoring and business feedback.
- Installed 9 targeted signs to discourage fly-tipping and improve awareness.
- Completed the directional totem signage across the estates, replacing outdated signage and improving the appearance and navigation of the area.
- Carried out regular grass cutting, generally on a two-week cycle during the growing season.
- Undertook hedge management and weed control to keep the estates tidy and well presented.
- Responded to waste and environmental issues associated with traveller incursions, helping affected areas return to normal as quickly as possible.
- Continued to identify and report environmental problems, working with businesses and Blackburn with Darwen Council to address issues.

These activities have helped keep the EDZ cleaner, better maintained and more welcoming, while allowing the BID to respond directly to environmental issues raised by businesses

THEME THREE - BUSINESS SUPPORT, RECRUITMENT AND NET-ZERO

The BID provides a direct link between businesses across the EDZ, helping levy payers stay informed, connected and aware of opportunities available to them.

During 2025-2026, the BID focused on regular business engagement, sharing useful information and connecting businesses with training, support and local opportunities.

During the year, the BID:

- Carried out one-to-one engagement with businesses through face-to-face visits, telephone calls and email.
- Provided Welcome Packs to new businesses, introducing them to the BID and the support available.
- Produced regular newsletters covering BID activity, CCTV and crime prevention, local developments, training and business opportunities.
- Shared timely information, alerts and opportunities directly with levy payers by email.
- Promoted and delivered training, skills and business support programmes, including accredited training opportunities.
- Created opportunities for businesses to network, share experiences and build relationships.
- Held an annual Business Forum, giving levy payers an opportunity to hear about BID activity, achievements and future plans.
- Gathered feedback from businesses to understand local priorities and help shape future BID activity.
- Made newsletters and Annual Reports available through the BID website, improving access to information about how levy funds are being used.

The BID Board has also continued to provide voluntary leadership and oversight, bringing together representatives from local businesses to consider feedback, identify priorities and help shape the direction of the BID.

For more information on the Blackburn EDZ Business Improvement District, and how your business can benefit visit www.blackburnedzbid.co.uk

What projects will be supported, delivered or funded by the BID in 2026 - 2027

THEME ONE -

SECURITY AND CRIME PREVENTION

Security will remain a priority during the final year of the current BID term. The BID will continue working with businesses, the police, CCTV operators and other partners to maintain a strong focus on crime prevention and a safer trading environment.

During 2026–2027, the BID will:

- Continue to operate and maintain the EDZ CCTV network and ensure cameras remain effective and operational.
- Explore opportunities to improve CCTV coverage and technology, including the potential introduction of 360-degree cameras.
- Strengthen communication and joint working with the local policing team.
- Share timely crime alerts, prevention advice and information about emerging issues with businesses.
- Support opportunities for businesses, police and security partners to exchange information and intelligence.
- Monitor issues such as anti-social behaviour, drug-related litter and other security concerns raised by businesses.
- Work with relevant partners to identify practical responses to local security issues.
- Use feedback from levy payers to identify and prioritise future security activity.

THEME TWO -

IMAGE ENHANCEMENT, CLEANER AND GREENER

The BID will continue to invest in practical improvements that keep the EDZ clean, attractive and well maintained.

During 2026–2027, the BID will:

- Continue regular litter picking across the three business estates.
- Monitor litter hotspots, grot spots and other environmental issues.
- Respond to issues raised by businesses and work with the BID cleaning team and Blackburn with Darwen Council to ensure problems are dealt with promptly.
- Monitor fly-tipping hotspots and identify opportunities to prevent repeat incidents.
- Continue grass cutting, hedge management and weed control throughout the growing season.
- Maintain and monitor gateway areas to keep key entrances to the EDZ welcoming and well presented.
- Explore further improvements to gateway areas, including low-maintenance landscaping.
- Monitor directional signage and street name plates and report damage, graffiti and missing signs.
- Work with partners to address persistent environmental problems, including discarded nitrous oxide canisters and other waste.
- Use feedback from businesses to identify and prioritise future environmental improvements.

THEME THREE -

BUSINESS SUPPORT, RECRUITMENT AND NET-ZERO

The BID will continue to strengthen its relationship with businesses and make it easier for levy payers to access information, opportunities and support.

During 2026–2027, the BID will:

- Continue one-to-one business visits and regular engagement with levy payers.
- Continue providing newsletters, email updates and important business information.
- Introduce regular business breakfast meetings, creating opportunities to network, exchange ideas and discuss issues affecting businesses.
- Deliver and promote relevant training, skills development and business support opportunities.
- Work with local organisations and partners to bring useful opportunities directly to businesses.
- Listen to business feedback and use it to inform future BID priorities.
- Share business success stories and positive news to celebrate the businesses operating across the EDZ.
- The BID will continue to focus on practical support, strong communication and projects that respond to the priorities identified by local businesses.

How will the BID operate?

The Blackburn EDZ BID is business-led and managed on behalf of the businesses within the BID area through an Executive Board, made up of representatives from local businesses. The Board meets quarterly to review progress, oversee BID projects, monitor finances, and help shape future priorities.

The BID's Accountable Body is Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire & Merseyside, a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity with extensive experience in delivering Business Improvement District management services.

The BID team is responsible for the day-to-day delivery of projects and services, business engagement, communications, and partnership working. The BID will also:

- Publish annual accounts and provide financial transparency.
- Hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- Provide regular updates and communications to levy payers.
- Report on progress and demonstrate how BID funds are being invested.

The BID operates in accordance with an Operating Agreement with Blackburn with Darwen Council and has a Baseline Agreement in place to ensure that BID-funded projects provide additional services and improvements rather than replacing the Council's statutory responsibilities.

The BID is committed to working closely with local businesses and partners to ensure that levy-payer investment delivers meaningful improvements across the EDZ.

Understanding Your Levy

All non-domestic ratepayers in the geographical area with a rateable value equal to or above £10,000 are liable for a BID levy. This includes all businesses and organisations that occupy a rateable property (hereditament) and property owners/ leaseholders (when units are vacant) in the BID geographical area.

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	200,000 - 499,999	£1,688	£4.62
G	500,000+	£2,250	£6.16

The revenue from the BID levy that the billing authority was due to receive between Oct 2025 to Sep 2026 was £177,686*. The amount spent on the BID arrangements was £151,909*.

*These are forecast figures through to the end of Sep 2026. Final full BID year figures will be reported in the Annual Report and Accounts. The current BID levy demand covers the period 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2027.

Have a question about the BID?

Shirley Blackledge | Email: shirley.blackledge@groundwork.org.uk

Tel: 0333 1210 393 | Web: blackburnedzbid.co.uk