

The Blackburn EDZ BID

Why business wardens?

Business wardens improve community confidence, create a better environment and improve business safety within the EDZ. They provide a viable presence within the patrol areas to deter anti-social behaviour whilst at the same time carrying out valuable physical work and reporting vandalism, fly tipping and graffiti.

Business wardens maintain close links with local police and where appropriate, share intelligence. They are the eyes and ears of the local business community.

A pilot business wardens scheme has already proved overwhelmingly popular with businesses in the Blackburn EDZ area.

If successful, the Blackburn EDZ BID will introduce a wider network of business wardens across the EDZ area, who are trained to spot and report the following:

- Burglary
- Drug dealing
- Car crime
- Youth nuisance
- Anti-social behaviour
- Hate crime
- Environmental and estate management problems

“Over the last six months we have developed an efficient and effective partnership with Blackburn with Darwen Council, local businesses and the police. The success of the partnership enables us to report and resolve issues identified in a quick and professional manner. We look forward to continue working closely with our partners over the foreseeable future – helping to improve the working environments of Whitebirk, Furthergate and Greenbank”.
GCS, Greenbank Business Park

“Your guys seem to be doing a very good job at keeping the litter nuisance under control. I hope that this initiative continues for many more years”.

Local businessperson on Whitebirk Industrial Estate

How will the BID Company be managed?

It's proposed that the BID body will take the form of a company limited by guarantee. Resident businesses in the BID area will be invited to put forward a representative to become a director of the BID Company.

It is recommended that two representatives will be secured from each business park to ensure wide representation.

Co-opted bodies will include the local authority and police.

The BID Company will represent the businesses, managing the delivery of the BID programme. The BID Company may contract-out the administration and financial management to an external organisation.

How will the BID be co-ordinated?

It's proposed that the BID management will be co-ordinated by Groundwork Blackburn. Groundwork Blackburn work with their partners to improve the quality of the local environment, the lives of local people and the success of local economies in areas in need of investment and support. Their services include:

- Business support
- Urban regeneration
- Youth work and education
- Employment programmes
- Community development work

Groundwork has been operating in Blackburn since 1990. Their purpose is to build sustainable communities in areas of need through joint environmental action. The organisation is part of a national federation of more than 50 Groundwork Trusts in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Their strategic priorities are threefold:

- Creating opportunities for people to learn new skills and take local action
- Creating better, safer and healthier neighbourhoods

- Helping businesses and individuals to fulfil their potential

Costs of services for the Blackburn EDZ BID

Environment - business wardens project	£45,660
Security - CCTV monitoring project	£46,868
Levy collection charge - CAPITA	£17,421
BID company management - Groundwork (Blackburn)	£7,960
BID co-ordination service - Groundwork (Blackburn)	£13,270
BwDBC finance	£2,522
Contingency	£17,184
Total expenditure	£150,885

What will the Blackburn EDZ BID cost?

How much would each business pay?

Exempt	5,000 - 9,999	£0	350
A	10,000 - 17,499	£350	93
B	17,500 - 24,999	£450	46
C	25,000 - 49,999	£650	54
D	50,000 - 99,999	£850	35
E	100,000 - 199,999	£1,000	14
F	200,000 - 499,999	£1,500	4
G	500,000 +	£2,000	2
Total eligible properties			248

Note: Figures show average annual cost over 5 years. Actual costs account for inflation.

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BIDs Frequently asked questions

Why is a BID necessary?

- A BID provides the mechanism to secure sustainable funding to deliver services and improvements to address local problems. It will only be used to deliver additional services/capital improvements that the business community has identified as necessary to add value to the trading environment.

What are the benefits?

- BIDs provide sustainable funding for an agreed period of time
- There is no 'freeloading' – those who vote have a voice, pay the levy and will benefit. It is a transparent and democratic process that is 100% accountable
- It allows self-management and self-funding with no red tape or bureaucracy
- It provides practical services to ensure a clean, safe, well-marketed, attractive environment
- In the long term it will deliver significant economic and quality of life benefits, eg, increased footfall and spending, reduced costs and more confidence in the area
- There are no surprises – businesses decide the levy, the money is ring-fenced and the charge is fixed at the start
- BID funds may be used to lever additional monies from local authorities, grant-giving agencies and voluntary contributions from property owners
- BID areas will have a significant competitive advantage over their rivals

- Through BIDS, businesses will have, some for the first time, a strong, central and legitimate voice to influence change
- By investing collectively the business community can work smarter, sharing costs and responsibilities.

Who gets to vote?

- Persons eligible to vote in the ballot will be the non-domestic ratepayer listed on the Council's database for each hereditament (business premise) situated in the geographical area of the proposed Blackburn EDZ BID as at 2nd April 2007 and have premises of a rateable value over £ 9,999.00 pa. Each person entitled to vote in this ballot shall have one vote in respect of each hereditament occupied or (if unoccupied) owned by them in the geographical area of the proposed BID.

How is it funded?

- Once the vote has been passed, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council will collect a supplementary levy, through CAPITA, on the business rate and the amount will be wholly designated to the BID. There is no specific limit or recommended amount, however whatever levy is proposed must be clearly specified in the business plan and will be voted on by the business ratepayers

Who administers the vote?

- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council will be responsible for calculating whether or not the vote has been successful and will be obliged to announce the result of the ballot publicly

The ballot will be conducted entirely by post by the Independent Scrutineer, [Electoral Reform Services of 33 Clarendon Road, London N8 0NW](#). Ballot Papers will be sent to those eligible to vote on **Monday 2nd July 2007** for return to them by no later than **5pm on Monday 30th July 2007** (the "day of the ballot").

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Who to contact for more information

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