



# The Blackburn EDZ BID

Economic Development Zone  
Business Improvement District



# Renewal Ballot Prospectus 2017 - 2022



## Introduction

**In 2007 major rate paying organisations in Blackburn's Greenbank, Furthergate and Whitebirk business parks formally voted in favour of a proposal to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) for the area, paying an annual contribution to fund additional security and improve the local environment for the benefit of businesses, employees and visitors.**

In 2012 the businesses of Furthergate, Greenbank and Whitebirk once again voted in favour of continuing the BID's work tackling crime, grime and antisocial behaviour for another 5 years.

Since the introduction of the BID, reported crime has reduced dramatically in the area. – Crimes have reduced from 175 in 2006 to 63 in 2016/17. This proposal highlights our key achievements during the lifetime of the BID and sets out plans for 2017 – 22.

In July this year you will be invited to decide whether you wish to continue making a positive contribution to the commercial and environmental welfare of your business park through the work of Blackburn BID. Only by securing a majority 'yes' vote in the renewal ballot can we build on our achievements to date whilst continuing to make the area a safer, cleaner and greener place to do business. We would like to count on your support.



## What is a Business Improvement District?

The Business Improvement District Regulations 2004 enable local businesses and other stakeholders to form partnerships to implement improvements which will benefit their local area. BIDs work in addition to existing services provided by the local authority to encourage the revitalisation of an area, addressing issues such as image, security, cleanliness or local transport.

Businesses decide on the issues they want to address, the amount of funding to be raised and the services they want to implement. These must be agreed upon by a majority of ratepayers in the BID area via a ballot. Approval of the BID would have to meet two tests: Firstly a simple majority of those voting in the BID ballot must vote in favour. Secondly, those voting in favour must represent a majority by rateable value. A BID can last for 5 years before the need for a renewal vote.

The improvements are funded via a supplement to the business rate billed by the local authority. These additional funds are handed over to a BID company and used to deliver the improvements.

## Blackburn EDZ BID Services

**The 2007 – 2012 BID focused on two themes, security and image enhancement.**

A major security initiative has provided the business parks with closed circuit television (CCTV) and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras.

A network of 30 cameras has been installed and these are monitored 'live' in the CCTV Monitoring Centre, providing an additional level of security for businesses with the objectives of reducing crime, fly-tipping, arson and anti-social behaviour. Since the cameras became operational Lancashire Constabulary statistics show a significant reduction in reported crime.

The BID addressed image enhancement issues through a team of business wardens. The wardens patrol the business areas to deter anti-social behaviour and to respond to issues of vandalism, fly tipping and graffiti.

Incidents of crime in EDZ BID area since the introduction of the BID\*

2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
175	189	101	74	81	79	87	59	84	63

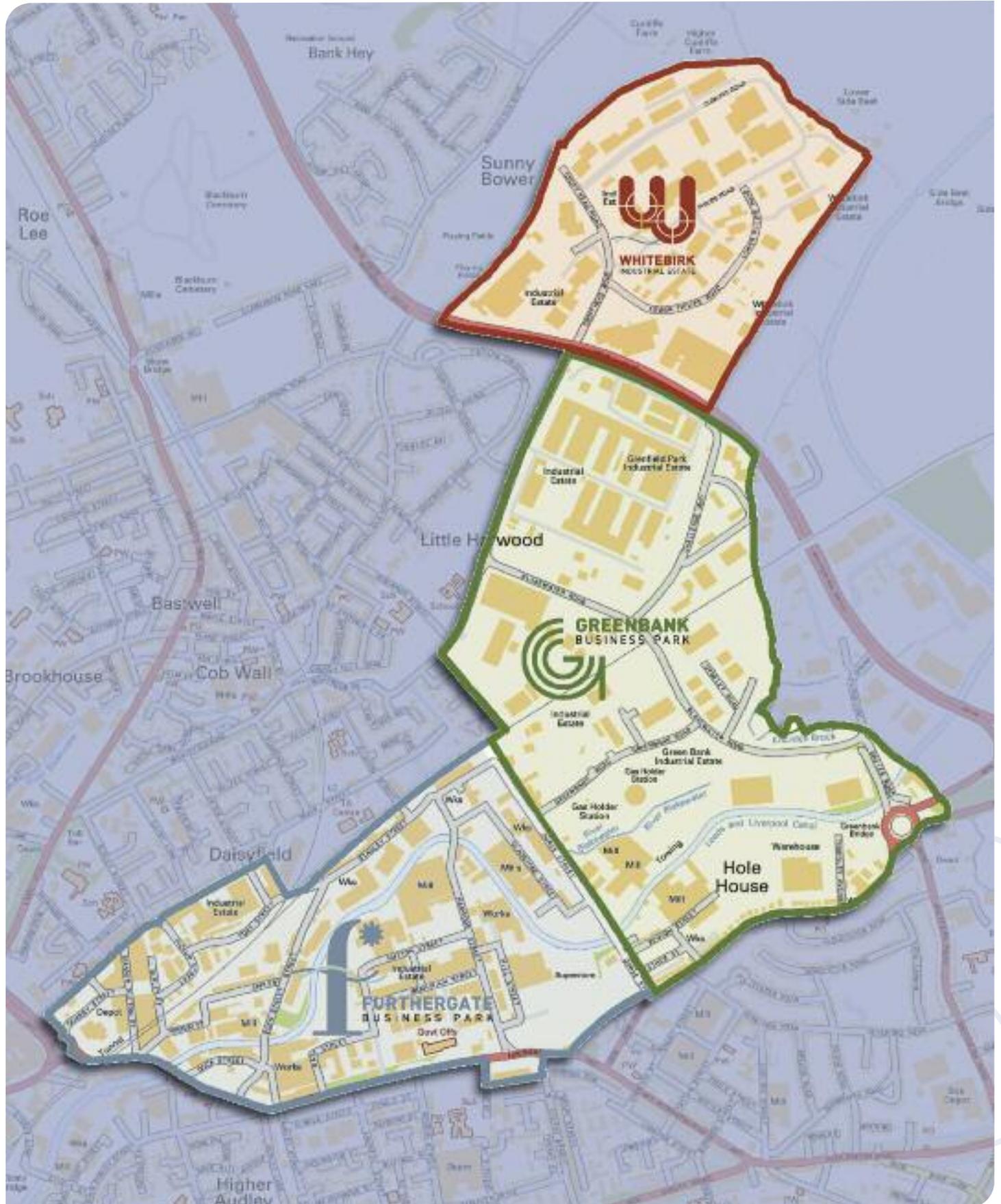
\*Categories: Burglary other than in a dwelling, Other theft and unauthorised taking, Stealing Motor vehicles or UTMV, Theft from a vehicle, Criminal damage to a Vehicle, Other criminal damage

The Business Wardens also maintain the area and undertake environmental improvements, landscape maintenance, replacing damaged street signs and installing barrier netting to address litter problems.

The key challenge the wardens face is keeping the area free from litter in order to maintain the positive image of the area. On average the wardens remove 120 sacks of litter from the area each month. The wardens also ensure a quick response to fly tipping, working with the local authority's environmental waste enforcement officers and CCTV monitoring staff to secure prosecutions, and remove waste quickly.

# The BID Area

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



# Plans for the Future

The BID proposal for 2017 – 22 continues to focus on security and image enhancement.

## Security

Prior to the BID installing CCTV in 2007, the area was subject to significant levels of criminal activity. The BID's co-ordinated approach to tackling crime has helped reduce reported crime by 64% over the last 10 years. Therefore this proposal will continue to deliver the following measures aiming to prevent and reduce crime;

### Continued 24/7 monitoring of the CCTV Network

The CCTV network covering strategic locations across the BID area will be monitored 24/7 in the new Central CCTV Monitoring Hub at King George's Hall, Blackburn. The CCTV Hub operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year, and has access to both CCTV images and police radios to provide a reactive and proactive response to incidents throughout the area.

This will include the repair and replacement of cameras, as required. The system will act as a deterrent and provide evidence as and when crimes do occur.

### To maintain the CCTV Network

The 2017 BID will invest in upgrades to the 10 year old CCTV network of cameras and the CCTV network infrastructure.

- New infrastructure will provide greater reliability and performance
- New cameras will provide best ever clarity of images
- Live Monitoring 24/7 from brand new state of the art CCTV Control Centre
- The BID company has improved communication with the CCTV Control Room Management and will continue to monitor the performance of every camera in the network on a weekly basis
- A new service contract for the CCTV network promises faster response when faults in the network occur

### Mobile CCTV

To utilise a mobile CCTV camera which can be moved around the area, as and when crime hotspots arise.

### 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 and this may result in an increase of crime, fly tipping and littering, a decrease in property values and increased insurance premiums.

### Benefits will include:

- A deterrent against theft, arson, vandalism, damage to property and fly tipping.
- A source of 'live' intelligence for the Police.
- Improved detection rates.
- Improved safety for staff and visitors.



Key Performance Indicator	Baseline prior to BID	Current Baseline	Target
Number of reported crimes	175 in 2006/07	63 in 2016/17	55 in 2021/22

(information source: police criminal statistics)



## Image Enhancement

The Business wardens enhance the image of the business parks and respond to issues of vandalism, fly-tipping and graffiti. Should the BID not be continued, the Business Wardens will no longer maintain the area and this service will cease. Should the BID continue, it will provide a service over and above the statutory provision 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. Additional litter bins will be installed and emptied in problem areas. A litter campaign will be developed with businesses.

### Environmental Crime

To monitor 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.

### Landscape Improvements

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

### Drug 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.

### Lobbying

The BID will lobby the local authority to ensure 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.

### Benefits will include:

- An attractive environment for staff to work from
- Give the right impression to visitors & customers
- Improved safety for staff and customers.



## BID Management

The BID is delivered through a company limited by guarantee, the Blackburn EDZ BID Company Ltd. The Company has Directors representing local resident businesses who commit their time free of charge.

The board will seek to increase the number of members, should the proposal to extend the BID be successful.

The levy is collected by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council. A local provider will be commissioned to undertake the role of managing agent for the BID Company.

## The BID Cost & Levy

The income & expenditure table below details the annual income and expenditure figures for the BID.

Expenditure	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
Levy Collection	£3,524	£3,525	£3,525	£3,525	£3,525	£17,624
BID Company Co-ordination & Management	£31,600	£32,150	£32,711	£33,283	£33,867	£163,611
CCTV Monitoring, Maintenance*	£52,159	£52,159	£52,159	£52,159	£52,159	£260,795
Business Park Wardens	£50,595	£51,607	£52,639	£53,692	£54,766	£263,298
<b>Total</b>	<b>£137,878</b>	<b>£139,441</b>	<b>£141,034</b>	<b>£142,659</b>	<b>£144,317</b>	<b>£705,329</b>
* inc. Camera replacements						
Income	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
Opening Balance	£30,000					£30,000
BID Levy	£141,851	£141,851	£141,851	£141,851	£141,851	£709,256
<b>Total</b>	<b>£171,851</b>	<b>£141,851</b>	<b>£141,851</b>	<b>£141,851</b>	<b>£141,851</b>	<b>£739,256</b>

The BID levy is based on the following banding system

BAND	RV BAND (£)	ANNUAL CHARGE (£)
EXEMPT	0 - 9,999	
A	10,000 - 17,499	£394
B	17,500 - 24,999	£506
C	25,000 - 49,999	£731
D	50,000 - 99,999	£956
E	100,000 - 199,999	£1,125
F	200,000 - 499,999	£1,688
G	500,000 +	£2,250



## Statement from the Police:

"Whilst there will always be arguments for and against the use of CCTV systems in public places, I believe the advantages outweigh the disadvantages, and the use of CCTV systems continues to be of significant benefit in our efforts to deter and detect crime. This I think can be shown within the EDZ BID area where there has been a consistent and substantial reduction in crime year on year since 2006. The increased security and specifically CCTV and ANPR cameras have undoubtedly contributed to this reduction."

**Inspector Abid Khan, Lancashire Constabulary.**

The annual BID levy will be fixed for the lifetime of the BID, although the amount payable will change if the premises are revalued.

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.

Any valuation adjustments, successful appeals, or new hereditaments will be adjusted annually on 1st September.

A business that is in occupation of a hereditament on the 1st September 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 premises is vacant on the 1st September the liability to pay the annual BID levy will revert to the legal occupier (e.g. leasehold or freehold interest, etc)

## The BID Ballot

The Blackburn EDZ Renewal BID proposal will only proceed if a formal BID Ballot is successful.

The BID Ballot will be undertaken in accordance with the BID Regulations (2004). It will be a postal ballot with all listed non-domestic ratepayers with a rateable value of greater than £9,999, within the BID boundary, entitled to one vote per hereditament. In the case of a vacant property the property owner will be entitled to vote.

The ballot will need to meet two tests. Firstly a majority (51%) in number of those voting must vote in favour. Secondly, there must be a majority in proportion of the aggregate rateable value of those voting.

Ballot papers will be dispatched by Electoral Reform Services, on behalf of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, by the 30th June 2017. The ballot papers must be returned by the 28th July 2017.

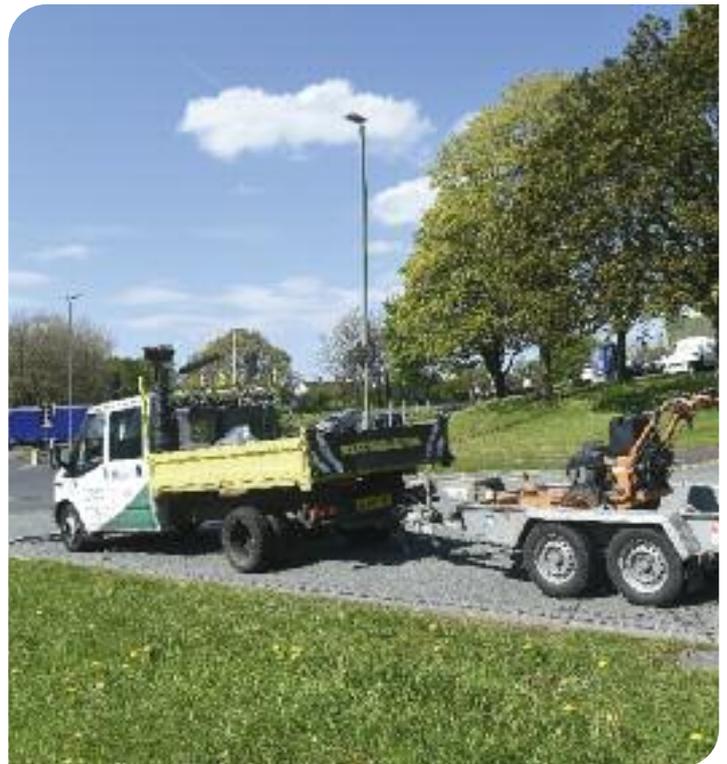
Full voting procedures will be issued with ballot papers.

## Alteration of BID Arrangements

The BID area, its services, governance arrangements or the BID levy arrangements can only be altered via an alteration or renewal ballot.

The Blackburn EDZ BID Company Board will have the power to reprofile budget headings and costs within the constraints of the revenue received through the BID without the need for a re-ballot.

Where higher levels of income are collected, the income and expenditure budgets may be increased to enable additional investment in the BID.





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