

Growth Lancashire – Company No. 05310616

Decision to Establish: Executive Board

Company Type: Private company limited by guarantee without share capital

(Lancashire County Council act as the Company Secretary)

Overview

Growth Lancashire was originally established in 2004 as Elevate East Lancashire with a focus on the delivery of the Housing Market Renewal (HMR) Initiative in East Lancashire. At that time, the Company was owned by Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn, Lancashire, Pendle and Rossendale Councils. In 2007, it became responsible for the delivery of the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative.

In 2010, following the termination of the HMR Programme, the Company was renamed Regenerate Pennine Lancashire and became responsible for the delivery of various funded projects either directly (for example Regional Growth Fund) or on behalf the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership (Boost, Growth Sector Support service).

In 2016, the Company changed its name to Growth Lancashire and widened its geographical spread to Lancashire. Since then, the number of Councils joining the Company has increased. Likewise, to help sustain the Company, the scope of services provided has increased to include heritage, conservation and arboriculture works in addition to providing the essential frontline services for Lancashire's Business Growth Hub in the delivery of business support for the county.

Blackburn with Darwen Ownership: The Council is a Member of the Company.

Update as at 31st March 2024

The Company currently consists of 14 permanent staff, a bank of 10 casuals to provide a flexible resource to call on and turnover approximately £850,000.

Growth Lancashire has been a procured delivery partner of Boost, Lancashire Business Growth Hub for 10 years and in September 2023 was successfully re-procured to deliver Boost's Helpline and Business Advice Service. The Helpline Team handle on average 130 enquires each month from people starting-up a business in Lancashire or business owners who need advice such as accessing finance, help to grow sales and overcoming specific challenges. Eligible businesses are offered a meeting with a Business Adviser who gets to know their obstacles and introduces them to the right support. Business Advisers meet with approximately 800 businesses a year.

The specialist services team predominantly delivery heritage and conservation planning advice on behalf of a substantial number of Local Authorities in Lancashire, advising on almost 1,000 applications a year. They also undertake conservation area appraisals, produce Heritage Statements and provide support on enforcement matters. The company also provide services for private clients and to a small number of local authorities in the Lancashire County Palatine. More recently the team have diversified and now deliver an arboricultural service; tree preservation orders, works to trees in conservation areas and planning developments affecting trees.

In addition to this the company has provided other services such as project management, grant administration, due diligence, project evaluation and supply of business advisers to local authorities.

Member local authorities are Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Burnley, Chorley, Fylde, Hyndburn, Lancashire, Lancaster, Pendle, Rossendale and West Lancashire.

Financial Performance

For 2023/24, the Company is expected to achieve break even and at 31st March 2024, the Company is expected to have reserves of £237k.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council acts as the Accountable Body for Growth Lancashire.

Audit Assurance

The Company's accounts are subject to audit as part of Blackburn with Darwen's Statement of Accounts.

Blackburn with Darwen Directors on the Board

Cllr Quesir Mahmood, Executive Member for Growth and Development.

Company Contact Details

The Company's registered office is PO Box 100, County Hall, Democratic Services, Lancashire County Council, Preston, Lancashire, England PR1 0LD.