

# PLACE – Pennine Lancashire Fact Sheet

## The Pennine Lancashire authorities comprise:

- Blackburn with Darwen Council
- Burnley Council
- Hyndburn Council
- Lancashire County Council
- Pendle Council
- Ribble Valley Council
- Rossendale Borough Council

The area has a population of more than 522,000 and a travel to work area including the major growth areas of Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds.

A multi-cultural, diverse area with breath-taking countryside, a rich industrial heritage, strong manufacturing base and a lively local culture, Pennine Lancashire also suffers from significant deprivation. There are more than 117,000 people living within the 10% most deprived areas in the country. 67,000 of these live in the 5% most deprived areas. We have high levels of benefit dependency and wage levels that lag behind the national average.

However, the authorities' strong commitment to partnership working and the signing of the Multi-Area Agreement and the Joint Investment Plan signal a new approach to tackling deprivation and strengthening the region to take it forward to meet the needs of a high value, knowledge based, modern economy.

The area faces some difficult challenges ahead, not least the intended public sector spending cuts in an area where the public sector is a major employer.

## The Multi-Area Agreement (MAA)

The MAA was signed in January 2009 with the Prime Minister, one of the first of the 14 pilot MAA areas to be agreed and signed off. The MAA supports the vision of bringing sustainability to the **whole** of Pennine Lancashire and provide better services and improved outcomes. The government made a commitment to work with the PLACE local authorities to; allow more flexible devolved funding, improve skills and tackle worklessness, improve transport, improve housing and boost the local economy. Interventions to make these changes include:

- Delegation of funding
- Rail improvements from Clitheroe, Burnley and Rawtenstall into Manchester
- Increase Higher Education places by more than 5,000
- DWP co-commissioning welfare to work contracts
- Establish strategic employment sites
- Prime area for public sector jobs relocation
- Achieve 100% broadband access across the region
- Achieve better balanced housing market

## Governance in a two tier area

To strengthen the commitment to improve Pennine Lancashire, the councils have formed a fully constituted PLACE (Pennine Lancashire) Joint Committee. Providing democratic accountability, the Joint Committee is held in public and brings council Leaders, from different political parties together to make decisions for the benefit of the area as a whole. This is recognition that, by prioritising projects that may be in a neighbouring borough, it can still have a major impact across administrative boundaries.

The PLACE (Pennine Lancashire) governance structure includes a number of theme lead groups including culture and sport, transport, housing, spatial planning, employment and skills, health and economic development. There are also strong links to a business leaders forum and third sector board.

To support the Joint Committee and other governance structures, a PLACE website has been set up which holds all agenda papers and other information related to the Joint Committee and other groups. The website address is [www.penninelancsplace.org](http://www.penninelancsplace.org)

## Joint Investment Plan and Local Investment Agreement

The Pennine Lancashire Joint Investment Plan and Local Investment Agreement were signed on March 24, 2010 and make the area the first in the North West to have both plans signed off.

The Joint Investment Plan is a commitment, in principle, of £20m funding per year for the next ten years from the NWDA. The Local Investment Agreement commits the HCA to £64m of funding to Pennine Lancashire to help deliver much needed new housing and improvements to existing homes to provide a much needed, balanced housing market.

These funding agreements and prioritisation of projects represent a move away from the restrictions brought by programme led funding within administrative boundaries to a place centred approach where funding can be invested based on priorities. The investment will support new, high value jobs and growth within the advanced manufacturing sector including aerospace and engineering; better skills provision; better transport links across the area and into Manchester; and the development of new affordable and better quality housing.

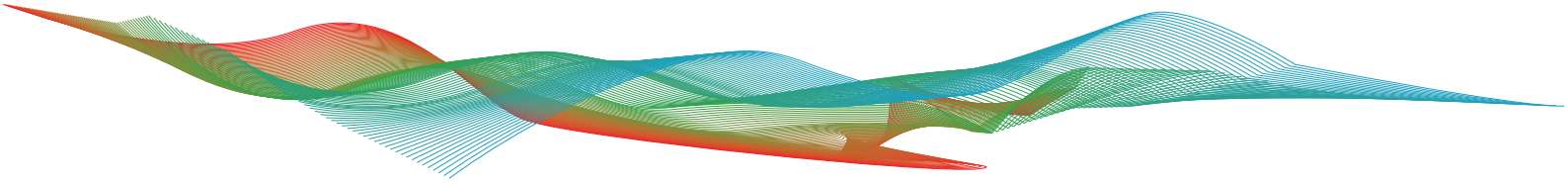
The Joint Investment Plan will progress some of our key regeneration sites across Pennine Lancashire including the Whitebirk strategic site, adrenalin gateway in Rossendale, support to the Knowledge Zone in Blackburn, town centre developments in Hyndburn and Pendle, and development of the Burnley Bridge business park. The rail schemes within the MAA, Clitheroe to Manchester, Todmorden Curve, Rawtenstall to Manchester will also benefit from this ten year investment commitment.

By agreeing joint priorities, Pennine Lancashire has a stronger voice and a clearer way forward. The Joint Investment Plan and the Local Investment Agreement both set out what the local authorities and regional bodies want to achieve. We recognise the changes to regional structures over the coming months and look forward to continuing to work closely with government to achieve the best investment framework for the area. Our strong commitment to partnership working and our existing governance structures already make us well placed to work within a local, sub-regional or regional framework.

## Key facts and features

- Forest of Bowland in the Ribble Valley designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Pennine Lancashire Festival of Food and Culture attracts 45,000 visitors from across England to this annual summer event
- Four of the six local authority areas ranked in the fifty most deprived areas across England (IMD 2007)
- 117,000 people living in the 10% most deprived areas in the country (22% of the Pennine Lancs population), 67,000 of these living in the 5% most deprived areas in the country
- Only 22% of the working age population hold NVQ Level 4 and above, well behind national and regional levels with 15.8% having no qualifications at all (Annual Population Survey 2006)
- £25m investment in Higher Education at Burnley and Blackburn UCLAN campus
- More than 94,000 people claiming benefits
- Designated as a priority place by the Living Places Partnership
- Housing stock is 49.6% terraced property compared with a national average of 25% and house prices are £100k lower than the national average (figures from 2007)
- Network Rail commitment to fast track rail links from Burnley to Manchester and Clitheroe to Manchester improvements by 2014
- Strong public sector and private sector infrastructure across the area
- Strong advanced manufacturing base (BAe; Rolls Royce)
- Strong support for business and enterprise growth – ‘No Limits’ Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI)
- Historical Clitheroe Castle – built in 1186 and the second smallest keep in England attracts visitors across the region
- Exotic Asian fabrics, crafts and cuisine attract visitors nationally
- Cycle destination (competition and leisure) – Pendle Cycle Show; National Road Race Championship – Pendle; Lee Quarry Mountain Bike Centre – Rossendale; Gisburn Forest Bike Trails – Ribble Valley

# Pennine Lancashire



[www.penninelancashire.com](http://www.penninelancashire.com)  
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