

Created a **Local Growth Hub** for businesses to access a wide range of support and expertise

The LEP's New Markets Programme has engaged with over **400 SMEs** to grow their businesses

Over 1,000 jobs have been created or safeguarded through the LEP's **Business Growth Grant**

Working with our partners to develop the **open Innovation Eco-system** across the City Region

Helping to deliver the **220.9million** EU Programme 2014-2020

3 year agreement with Marketing Liverpool to deliver destination marketing

Pioneered **Industry 4.0** (LCR 4.0) and **Internet of Things** strategies for the City Region

Launched a **new LEP website** with an enhanced Members' area

£1.5m allocated to **FE Colleges** for energy efficiency measures

Join us as one powerful voice to develop economic priorities, engage with Government and secure investment.

Working together to drive economic growth across Liverpool City Region



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2015/2016

COLLABORATION AND COMMITMENT TO DELIVER GROWTH

2015 has been a momentous year for Liverpool City Region. Through the Devolution Deal agreed with Government, the six City Region leaders and the LEP have secured almost £1 billion of extra funding over the next 30 years as well as putting ourselves in a better position to support and grow our local economy. The Deal is the start of a long journey and discussions with the Government will continue in order to secure further devolved powers and influence for a range of priority issues.

It has also been an extremely important year for the role of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in driving economic growth. This brochure is intended to provide a snapshot of what we are achieving today and our plans for the future.

As always, the LEP continues to work closely with the private sector on the development of the Key Growth Sectors that have been firmly established in the City Region to grow and create jobs. In addition to the Key Growth Sectors the LEP is also continuing to develop the Employment and Skills agenda, Business Growth and Entrepreneurship, as well as working with partners on Transport and Spatial Planning.

The LEP not only operates at a strategic level but also provides delivery support on many other programmes including the Regional Growth Fund and has also developed the Liverpool City Region EU Structural and Investment Funds Strategy to inform and prioritise the 220.9million EU Programme for the City Region.

Helping and supporting business to grow will be a focus for 2016 with the launch of a Business Growth Hub. This Hub will provide a simple point of access for businesses in each part of the City Region to easily access a wide range of support and expertise.

The future is looking bright, and the LEP is working towards a long-term plan for a City Region serious about its economic future. To achieve this, the LEP with the Combined Authority are developing a single Growth Strategy for the City Region that will outline a clear strategic vision and focus to deliver sustained, ambitious growth for the future.

Throughout all this, the Local Enterprise Partnership will play an absolutely vital role. We will continue to represent the private sector as well as help create a strong alliance between all other parties and promote the interests of business, and other partners, as the City Region moves through the early stages of Devolution into a fully operating model.

No other LEP is doing this in the same way so thank you for your continued support in helping to create a better economic environment for us all.



Robert Hough

Robert Hough CBE,
Chair, Liverpool City Region LEP

www.LiverpoolLEP.org

SOME OF OUR KEY SUCCESSES IN 2015

GROWTH DEAL ONE YEAR ON

In July 2014 the LEP secured a total of £232m of Local Growth Funding from our Local Growth Deal that was submitted to Government. One year on and work is underway on the following schemes:

- Access and Connectivity improvements to Knowsley Industrial Park are underway; and the improvements to the Knowsley Expressway to maximise the benefits of the new Mersey Crossing will begin in January 2016.
- The transformation of Newton-le-Willows station into a transport 'hub' is programmed to start in January 2016.
- A significant proportion of the Skills Capital Fund has now been allocated to improve education and training facilities. Projects include a new Logistics Academy to open in St Helens and Knowsley Colleges. Hugh Baird College has been awarded £2million to upgrade and create a dedicated Port Academy Liverpool training facility.
- The Skills Capital Low Carbon Fund has now been launched. Round 1 will see £1.5m allocated to seven FE colleges in the City Region to improve their energy efficiency management and to reduce fuel bills.

PROMOTING STEM SUBJECTS TO YOUNG PEOPLE

The LEP's Making It Board has supported the continuation of the MerseySTEM Robotics Challenge, now in its second year, to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) among young people.



HELPING LOCAL BUSINESSES GROW

The LEP's Business Growth Grant has been completed. Working with our Local Authority partners across the City Region, this £15million programme has so far created and safeguarded over 1,000 jobs with an additional 1,000 to be confirmed as a direct result of the programme over the next two years. Through the New Markets programme we have engaged with 400 SMEs and provided financial subsidies of over £500,000 for local commercial services supporting their growth.

DEVELOPING SKILLS PRIORITIES FOR THE VISITOR ECONOMY



The LEP's Visitor Economy Development team are working with FE colleges and skills providers across the City Region to set the priorities of the Visitor Economy Skills for Growth Agreement. Key activity for 2016 includes a Visitor Economy Stakeholder event and VE Skills week, both planned for early 2016.

DEVELOPING INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

The LEP has secured funding through a transnational project that was submitted to the European Commission's £1+billion Motorways of the Sea initiative. The project will provide an opportunity to access funds for infrastructure investment across the region – primarily linking the port to the hinterland and improving East-West links.



NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2016

Local Growth Hub for businesses



localgrowthhub.com

The Local Growth Hub will provide a simple point of access for local businesses to easily access a wide range of support and expertise. By co-ordinating and simplifying business support across the City Region, the Local Growth Hub will join up national, local, public and private support to create a seamless customer experience for businesses. The Local Growth Hub will be live in January 2016.

Developing a single Growth Strategy for the Liverpool City Region

The Combined Authority and LEP Strategic Board have agreed to develop a single Growth Strategy for the Liverpool City Region. This strategy will outline a clear vision and focus to deliver sustained, ambitious growth for the future of the City Region. The strategy will be delivered by April 2016.



Promoting the City Region's key assets



The LEP will establish a Place Marketing Strategy around the City Region's key assets and growth sectors. The project is intended to develop the City Region's overarching brand proposition and will deliver a range of inward investment and marketing activities to help secure investment and support SME growth.

Innovation Assets

The City Region has world class innovation assets, from Haretree in Daresbury to Alder Hey in Liverpool. Working with our partners in universities, colleges, hospitals, business and local authorities we will be promoting these assets, attracting further investment and helping to realise their huge commercialisation potential.



International Festival for Business 2016



The LEP will be supporting the International Festival for Business 2016 as well as leading on a complementary Fringe Festival next year. The Edge is an innovative, creative and dynamic programme of events and activities all of which have been designed to ensure that businesses in the City Region derive maximum tangible benefits from the festival.