

Professional Liverpool

insights

with Brock Carmichael



Professional Liverpool met up with the partners at Liverpool based architects Brock Carmichael recently to discuss what obstacles to growth continue to challenge the area and what changes could help Liverpool City Region reach its potential.

Chris Bolland

Managing Partner



Liverpool City Region (LCR) aims to create 100,000 additional jobs, house 50,000 more people, increase the number of businesses by 20,000 and nearly double the size of the Economy to £50billion by 2040. These targets are challenged in the short term now with COVID-19, but we have a reputation as a region for bouncing back.

The challenges faced by the region are no different to any other regions in the UK, promoting innovation, collaboration and business success, focusing on right-skilling and attracting and retaining talent, improving infrastructure, enhancing culture and quality of life, and Place Making.

The region has a lot going for it, a rich and diverse culture, miles of world-class waterfront, an industrial and architectural heritage to be proud of and innovation in leading technology. But it should not forget its communities and the strength of its proud Northern Spirit as it faces challenges and changes ahead.





Michael Cosser

Partner

Public private collaboration has been the key to success on a number of fronts in LCR.

Whilst debates about HS2 continue and the case for Northern Crossrail get stronger, the region's infrastructure benefits from an integrated strategy with an eye and firm plans on digital and renewable energy. With transport investment in the North West set at 57% of London's, TfN's plans including CrossRail for the North are a snip at £150 per head.

Our own work on Liverpool's waterfront with Peel, both in residential PRS and leisure for the cruise terminal hotel, in the Baltic area of the city and for Torus in St Helens on housing an aging population, bear testament to the breadth of work to be done in Place Making.

We are on track but have more to do.



John Cassell

Partner



The Northern Powerhouse aims to boost the North and redress the North South divide by investing in skills, innovation, transport and culture for business growth and efficiency.

Introduced in 2014 it identified that London 's GVA is growing at twice the rate of the North's and therefore provides an easier case to invest in infrastructure there. Since then delays and over spend infrastructure projects at Heathrow and Crossrail for example, are making it difficult for critical projects like Northern Powerhouse Rail and HS2 to get off the ground. But we've successes here to call on, the Mersey Gateway Bridge, MediaCityUK, Liverpool Waterfront, NewcastleGateshead Quayside and Leeds City Centre regeneration to name a few.

Digital access and new working practices should enable us to be less London centric and gain enhanced work-life balances. Nearly every other world country has more than one city of major significance to



world economies increasing resilience and working together for the country it inhabits. Infrastructure investment made in the North can make a bigger, more positive impact for growth up here.

Projects across the North should not be held back by the South East's failure to deliver.





Phil Malthouse

Partner

COVID19 has affected Liverpool perhaps more than other cities due to its ever growing leisure sector. This has taken its toll on City Centres with reduced visitor numbers and a resulting drop in income for the businesses there.

However figures recently released demonstrate footfall has increased for retail, and hospitality has adapted accordingly. The next major step is to ensure a safe working environment to enable the business district to re-populate. Technology has always been essential to our business. Daily Zoom and Teams meetings have enabled “business as usual” throughout the pandemic and we need to consider the importance of this as we move forward into the 'new normal'.

The potential offered by 5G will offer massive opportunities in attracting the tech sector to the North West, providing development



and increased employment not only to the major cities but the towns and villages too.

The advancement of how we design and manufacture in the construction sector has been influenced greatly by technology both within the office and on site. Off site manufacture continues to improve and provide cost efficiency and faster construction times.

More contractors are embracing and adapting to this system of working whilst the end product benefits from better quality control.

AutoCad has slowly been replaced over the last decade with packages such as Revit.

This allows us to work with other construction disciplines more easily and visualise the completed project better together. We can provide added value to design and construction and a seamless link to other more graphic disciplines, for example 3D modelling and Virtual Reality (VR). Developers and investors in our City can now highlight their projects quickly and easily to a wider audience anywhere in the World, showcasing the advantages of Liverpool now and of the future.



***Liverpool Office
Brock Carmichael
19 Old Hall Street,
Liverpool,
L3 9JQ***

Tel 0151 242 6222

Fax 0151 242 6222

office@brockcarmichael.co.uk