

Liverpool beating Manchester with innovation

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Liverpool, Lancashire and Cheshire are all ahead of Manchester in a league table showing the proportion of firms developing new products and services.

Liverpool is the 'northern powerhouse' for innovation – ahead of rival Manchester - according to a new study which turns received wisdom about the UK's economic geography on its head.

The research shows the UK has a clear 'arc of innovation' stretching from Cambridge through the South-East Midlands and along the M4 corridor to take in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

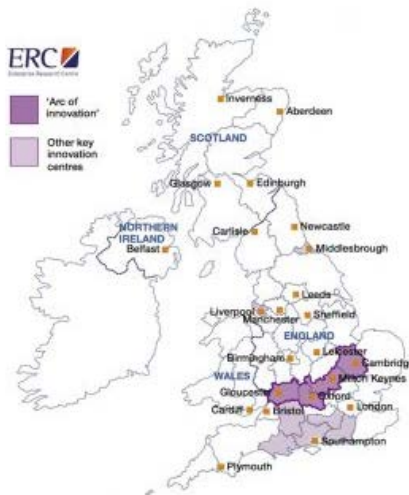
More surprising beacons of innovation elsewhere include the Tees Valley, Dorset and Liverpool.

London, meanwhile, is way down the list, while Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland also show below-average levels of innovation.

The study, Benchmarking local innovation – the innovation geography of the UK, has been produced by the Enterprise Research Centre (ERC), the UK's leading independent research institute on the drivers behind business growth and success.

ERC's analysis of six key indicators of innovation has allowed it to produce an 'innovation league table' for 45 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas in England and equivalent zones in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. These indicators range from new products being brought to market, to collaboration and research and development (R&D) activity.

In the North-West, Liverpool comes 10th overall, with Cheshire & Warrington 12th and Lancashire 15th, while Greater Manchester is 20th. But in the key measure of new-to-market innovation, Manchester leapfrogs Liverpool to take 19th place, with Liverpool 25th.



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The findings are based on a new analysis of data from the 14,000 firms which responded to the UK Innovation Survey 2013, relating to their innovation activity over the period 2010-2012. This survey found that while nationally 45% of firms reported being 'innovation active', only 18% were engaged in new product innovation.

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"Problem is people wont have this. The mindset is that Mcr IS the Northern Powerhouse just ask George Osborne. Thats why they get the cash."

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