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Merseyside is top of the Northern league table for business innovation, new report claims

06:04, 1 JUNE 2015 BY TONY MCDONOUGH

Liverpool city region beats Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cheshire & Warrington in Enterprise Research Centre study

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Chancellor George Osborne seeing innovation in action at the University of Liverpool last year. The university collaborates with many businesses on new products

Liverpool city region is the "northern powerhouse" when it comes to business innovation, according to a new study.



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The Enterprise Research Centre (ERC), an independent research institute on the drivers behind business growth and success, has compiled a league table of UK Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas and similar zones using key innovation measures.

These included the proportion of firms reporting the introduction of a new or significantly improved product or service during the 2010 to 2012 period; those engaged in new market innovation, process innovation, strategic and marketing innovation, research and development and collaboration with other organisations.

Liverpool city region came 10th overall – the highest position of any North of England location. Cheshire & Warrington was 12th, Lancashire 15th, while Greater Manchester was 20th.

However, in the key measure of new-to-market innovation, Manchester leapfrogs Liverpool to take 19th place, with Liverpool 25th.


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

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.

Professor Stephen Roper, who led the ERC research, said firms' ability to innovate played an important role in sustaining growth and competitiveness, with economic implications for whole regions:

He added: "For the first time, this research gives us a picture of which localities of the UK have the highest proportion of firms introducing new products and services.


"The findings run counter to the dominant narrative of a country dependent on London, with innovation being much more dispersed across the country than was previously thought."



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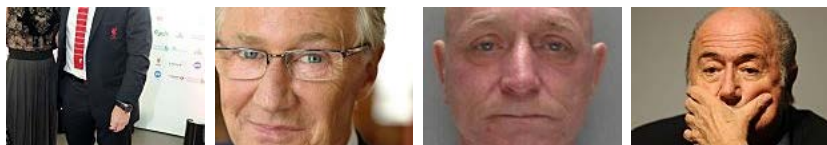
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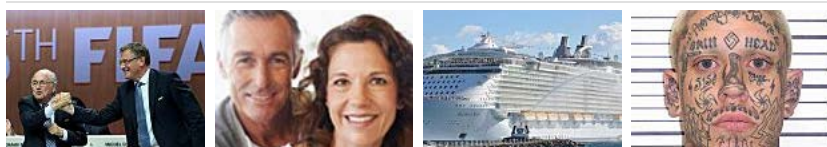
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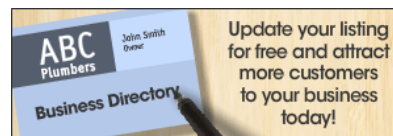
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