

Downtown Liverpool In Business

DLIB

Press Release – 7th March 2005

'Business Backs Elected Mayor Idea'

A poll undertaken by private sector lobbying organisation, Downtown Liverpool in Business, has shown a majority of business leaders in favour of the proposal to have an elected mayor in Liverpool.

The survey of 2,000 DLIB members showed that 56% of participants thought that an elected mayor would give Liverpool more focus and dynamism.

DLIB Chairman Frank McKenna said:

"This is a further indication of the Liverpool business community wanting clearer thinking, direction and leadership from the city's structures of governance.

"DLIB's 'Liverpool One' campaign, which is calling on the Government to streamline the number of quango's and agencies involved in Liverpool's regeneration, has been gathering momentum among the city's private sector. People are fed up with the amount of red tape and bureaucracy that they have to deal with. An elected mayor is clearly seen as a possible option.

"It seems that every month a new initiative is launched – and along with it a new agency, committee or organisation.

"Business leaders are now saying 'enough is enough'. It is time to review these bodies, and get them under the umbrella of a single agency.

And Mr. McKenna says that the public sector itself has drawn the same conclusion – but failed to do anything about it.

"The recent inquiry into the collapse of the fourth grace project identified 'too many cooks' as a major factor in the initiatives failure. However, there has been no action to address that problem. Surely we have to act now and get an efficient and effective structure in place that will allow business to maximise the growth opportunities that exist in the run up to 'capital of culture' year."

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