

Downtown Liverpool In Business

DLIB

'Think Tank Wants More Help For Graduates' 23rd February 2004

Liverpool should capitalise on its ability to attract record numbers of students to its Universities by providing incentives to Graduates who want to stay in the City and start their own businesses, according to business and regeneration think tank Downtown Liverpool.

Downtown Chairman Frank McKenna explained:

"Our Universities are doing a tremendous job in promoting and marketing their educational courses and facilities, and are no doubt being ably assisted in their recruitment drives by the vastly improved image of Liverpool.

"Within our Universities, there are many students who have the ambition and desire to start their own business, and it is important that we do what we can to retain that talent in this City.

"The St.Helens City Growth Strategy team have piloted the idea of allowing graduates who establish their own businesses in the town to forgo their student loan payments. We would like to see this initiative rolled out across the City region.

"However, one of the biggest barriers to the young graduate entrepreneur who may wish to stay Liverpool is the price and availability of property-both business and residential.

"Though we can welcome the City's property boom in general terms, we have to identify and address the negative implications too. Downtown Liverpool proposes that the relevant agencies look at providing more mixed use development-residential and communal business premises-along with additional help for graduates, from mortgage deferrals through to shared ownership schemes.

"It is fair to say that in the current climate brands such as Cream and Wade Smith would have struggled to flourish in downtown Liverpool in the way that they did in the nineties. We need to provide a framework of practical support to ensure that future entrepreneurs and creative talents can establish equally valuable businesses in the City."

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