

Downtown Liverpool In Business

DLIB

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DLIB URGES 'LESS BUREAUCACY, MORE DELIVERY'

The findings of the inquiry into Liverpool's abandoned Fourth Grace have confirmed the need for a radical streamlining of government structures in the city, according to the Chairman of leading business pressure group Downtown Liverpool in Business (DLIB), Frank McKenna.

Commenting on the official report undertaken by Members of Liverpool City Council, Mr. McKenna said:

"Lack of leadership is identified as a key reason for the failure to deliver this flagship Capital of Culture scheme. Clearly, that failure is a direct result of no single agency or person having ultimate responsibility for the project.

"No-one has been able to stand up and say 'the buck stops with me' and no organisation was given overall control of the scheme. I am afraid that in the run up to 2008, Liverpool can simply not afford another fourth grace type fiasco, and the Government should now step in and demand that there is a radical overhaul and significant downsizing of the number of agencies and organisations involved in Liverpool's regeneration.

"Unless this happens, every strategic project is going to be run by committee and the pitfalls of further failure will remain. Let us not forget, we have been here before with the original King's Dock proposals, and the tram project was also under threat as a result of public bodies squabbling.

"Such an approach has proved to be inefficient and bureaucratic, and undermines business confidence in the city.

Mr. McKenna concluded:

"DLIB is currently consulting members with a view to suggesting particular changes to the ODPM for its consideration. The one thing that is clear from the report is that no change is not a viable option."

ENDS

For further information contact Frank McKenna