## **Liverpool City Region Freeport: A Catalyst for Growth**



The Liverpool City Region puts business at the forefront of Global Trade.

One of only eight Freeports in England, the Liverpool City Region combines geographic, operational, financial and commercial advantages that makes it uniquely well-suited to driving business growth, innovation and collaboration.

Businesses in the Liverpool City Region are able to easily tap into domestic and foreign markets, while benefiting from a variety of valuable tax and support incentives that range from customs and business rates relief to helping firms build, regenerate, upskill, research and much more. These benefits go handin-hand with the fact that companies will be operating within a pioneering City Region ecosystem that's infused with world leading technology, skills, ideas and institutions.

As a West-facing port, the Liverpool City Region is the UK's gateway to the Atlantic. This ensures swift connectivity with the USA, Ireland and other thriving

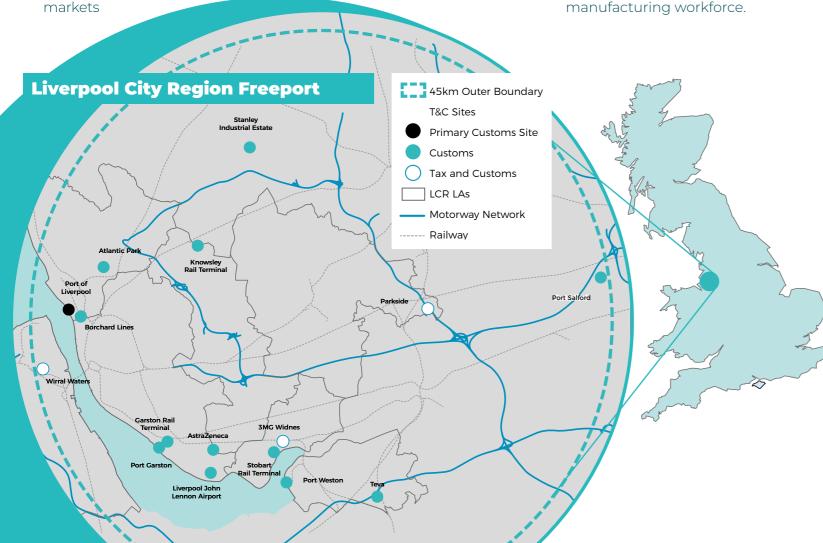
in Africa, Asia and Australia. The City Region's importance to transatlantic trade is underlined by the fact that 45% of all US-UK trade passes through its port.

A dynamic domestic market is right on the City Region's doorstep, with 60% of the demand for container cargo being closer to the Liverpool City Region than Southern ports. Not only is the Liverpool City Region embedded in North West England, the nation's manufacturing heartland, but its central UK position means a HGV can reach Glasgow or London in five hours, while in eight hours a ship can be in Dublin.



All this trade and activity takes place in an innovative environment designed to supercharge growth. Firms can rely on a comprehensive package of financial assistance, with support including enhanced capital allowances and relief on stamp duty, land tax relief, national insurance contributions and business rates.

By plugging your business into the Liverpool City Region you'll be working out of a place that loves to work together - putting you in the best position to partner with everyone from major OEMs to world leading universities, an industry 4.0-enabled supply chain and a 50,000-strong, modern manufacturing workforce.



All of this collaboration goes hand-in-hand with the Liverpool City Region's commitment to being a sustainable City Region that ensures businesses can achieve their green goals. This is exemplified by projects such as the world's second largest concentration of off-shore wind farms, a Hydrogen Economy Programme, plans to harness the Mersey tide to produce Gigawatt-scale power and an extensive, interconnected green economy.

## John Lucy, Director of the Liverpool City **Region Freeport, said:**

"It's no accident that three major automotive manufacturers are based so close to Liverpool's port. They can quickly, easily and efficiently receive the components they need and then move their cars all-round the UK or send them to North America. What's more, this is such a wide geographical zone that we're not constrained and have the space, people and demand to grow - the options are endless!

"There's a comprehensive measure of packages that includes tax relief and support for customs, business rates, planning, regeneration, R&D and upskilling to name just a few. At the same time, new technologies and sustainable innovations are taking centre stage and providing answers to the challenges that a lot of large, complex companies are facing."

Freeport tax and customs sites have been identified right across the City Region, from Halton to Wirral, to support existing and newly investing businesses to thrive in a high quality, cost competitive environment. The largest of these is Parkside, St Helens, one of the best connected logistics and manufacturing hubs in the North of England, with first phase consent for more than 1 million square feet of space.

## **Jayne Furnival, Group Property Director of** Langtree, who are developing Parkside in a JV with St Helens Council, said:

"We are fully committed to providing the space required to support the Freeport's ambitions and are developing units speculatively to help ensure a pipeline is available for potential occupiers. The Freeport has the potential to be a gamechanger for the whole City Region economy and we are right behind it."

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND GREAT OPPORTUNITIES IN LIVERPOOL CITY REGION **CONTACT** <u>Alice.Lamb@growthplatform.org</u> **OR VISIT** 

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ADVANCING THE CITY REGION