


ECHO The voice of the city

MY CITY

A great chance to 'Engage'

WATERFRONT residents, along with businesses and organisations that are based in our historic city centre, enjoy many benefits of living and working here. But, frequently, they bear the brunt of a significant number of challenges as well.

These are not exclusive to the city and waterfront. In fact, they pervade through the six boroughs of the city region and far beyond. Homelessness, provision for safe cycling and walking in the city and the spectre of Brexit hanging ominously over us – we are in this together.

Nothing is more relevant now than collaboration. We need to look outwards to find solutions and work constructively, together with our neighbouring boroughs, to find ways to resolve these challenges.

That's why Engage Liverpool's three up-coming seminars focus on the theme of "playing our part".

The series brings together regional, national and international expertise on these pressing challenges – the CEO of the Danish Cyclists' Federation and former "Bicycle Mayor" of Copenhagen, Klaus Bondam; Juha Kahila, from Finland's Y-Foundation, whose revolutionary approach has almost eliminated the issue of homelessness and rough sleepers in the country; and Professor Philip McCann, a national expert in devolution and the impact of Brexit. They will be joined by a raft of highly-esteemed panellists, including representatives from the Combined Authority.

Through these events, we must situate our city centre and waterfront community at the heart of the wider Liverpool City Region and look for innovative ways to make change. They take place on October 3, 17 and 31 (go to engage.liverpool.com).

GERRY PROCTOR
CHAIR OF ENGAGE LIVERPOOL, CIC



PRIDE IN PICTURES

An Iron Man stands firm against the waves on Crosby Beach

Picture: ANDREW TEEBAY

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LIVERPOOL council has passed new plans to try to protect the future of the city's music venues from complaints about noise.

The council's cabinet voted yesterday to adopt the Agent of Change principle for use by planners considering building proposals around the city's concert venues and clubs.

The policy would put more of an onus on developers to ensure proper steps are taken to sound-proof their new building.

Currently, developers only need to comply with normal building regulations – some music venues say this means that, when occupants move into a new building, they complain about noise or disruption.

In multiple cities across the UK, this has led to a number of smaller venues shutting – and, in Liverpool, the issues have been particularly centred on the Baltic Triangle.

Liverpool's Head of UNESCO City of Music and Music Board member, Kevin McManus, said:

City plots move to help the music thrive



The policy should help to protect established music venues from noise complaints

"It's the law that any entertainment venue moving into a residential area needs to take measures to ensure they don't cause noise problems for those nearby – so, why wouldn't the same apply for new developments built near established music businesses?"

"Too often, music venues become a victim of developers and we are seeing increasing issues in the city at the moment. The Baltic Triangle is a prime example and, if

we can adopt the Agent of Change policy, we can ensure that our enviable music scene and the city's regeneration ambitions can co-exist."

Liam Kelly, CEO of Make Liverpool, which represents a range of creatives in the city, said he welcomed the policy as a first step in protecting the city's music culture.

Mr Kelly said: "This news isn't just important to areas like The Baltic Triangle, but also emerging areas such as Ten Streets and Fabric District.

"The policy is only the start, though. The real test will come when developers submit applications despite this policy.

"It will be then that Liverpool's planning committee are asked to decide what the city values more.

"One of the principal purposes of the planning system is to ensure that all issues are resolved before

permission is granted. In many cases throughout the city, it's my experience that, once permission is granted, there is little that can be done to protect culture. It's time for the city to be brave and use these new policies to protect what it values most."

Liverpool city council's cabinet member for culture, Cllr Wendy Simon, said it was crucial for Liverpool to preserve the live music it offers.

She said: "For us as a UNESCO City of Music, adopting this new way of working is a priority and I hope it encourages other authorities to follow suit."

The introduction of the policy comes as a result of recommendations from the Liverpool City Region Music Board, which acts as the voice of the sector.

The principle has already been introduced in London.

ECHO

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