


ECHO The voice of the city

MY CITY

A crucial time for city region

ENGAGE Liverpool's seminar this Thursday, when I will be the keynote speaker, will look at the transformations the city region has undergone in the last three decades, with the pace of change in governance matters accelerating during the last decade.

These transformations have reflected the broader fact that UK sub-national government has undergone many changes during the last decade.

The Regional Development Agencies and the Government Offices for the Regions, established under Labour, were abolished in 2010 and replaced by Local Enterprise Partnerships.

From 2014, under the visionary leadership of Lord Jim O'Neill and the influence of Lord Michael Heseltine, George Osborne was persuaded to initiate the Northern Powerhouse agenda. The Cameron Government then commenced a process whereby city regions negotiated bespoke devolution deals with the Treasury. Yet, after the launch of the Northern Powerhouse agenda, the pace of sub-national devolution in the UK has slowed or even stalled since 2016. This is largely due to devolution being overtaken by other priorities, notably Brexit.

It remains to be seen whether the momentum around devolution-related issues will pick up. Brexit poses new challenges for cities and regions, and while governance devolution generates enthusiasm in many quarters, the devolution of tax-raising powers and health and social care responsibilities are double-edged swords to be treated with caution.

The coming years are crucial for our cities' long-term development and require thought-out, not rushed, governance reforms.

PROF PHILIP McCANN
SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY
MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

Anne Johnson read her poem *My Sister Kathleen* at the Pause for Hope service. Below, founder Prof Ray Donnelly and, bottom, ECHO editor-in-chief Ali Machray gave a reading.

GEOFF DAVIES



Inspiring service marks 21 years of giving hope

By **PADDY SHENNAN**

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PEOPLE from across Merseyside joined together in the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral to celebrate the 21st birthday of the Pause for Hope service.

Professor Ray Donnelly, the founder of the service, and founder and president of the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation, told the ECHO: "Every year, Pause for Hope reaches the hearts and minds of so many people whose lives are touched by cancer, and its appeal never wanes."

"It brings comfort, consolation and hope to those who have cancer, or have had cancer or have lost loved ones to cancer."

"The uplifting nature of the service helps those attending to cope with the difficulties and distress that cancer can bring."

As part of the service Anne Johnson, who lives in Warrington, read out her poem – *My Sister Kathleen* – which won the ECHO's Poems of Hope competition.

The congregation was welcomed by auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool Tom Williams.

ECHO editor Ali Machray was among those who gave readings and there was music from the SingMe Merseyside choir and Dave and Danielle Flynn, while Yaman Awaza, Young Lord Mayor of Liverpool, and Marni Duggan, Junior Lord Mayor of Liverpool, read the bidding prayers.

In his reflection Professor Donnelly quoted one of the late Roy Castle's sayings: "You get on the bus and you trust the driver" – that was his simple way of expressing his faith and that was the way in which he lived the last few months of his life.

"Roy saw his illness not as any kind of punishment, which it wasn't – and none of us should ever think like that – but as an opportunity given him by God, to forget about himself and to help other people."

"We all marvelled at the extraordinary way in which he did this and it's not surprising his legacy survives to this day."

"His faith, courage, sincerity and cheerfulness in adversity were an example to us all, whether we had cancer or not."

ECHO

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