



LIVERPOOL'S REGENERATION

Context, Challenges, Lessons

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INTRODUCTION



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HOW FAR WE HAVE COME

- From a city on its knees in the late 1970s and early 1980s
- To a capital of culture



HOW FAR WE HAVE COME

From art deco decline to art deco delight



HOW FAR WE HAVE COME

From street riots to street cafes



HOW FAR WE HAVE COME

From Albert Dock nightmare to Albert Dock dream



HOW FAR WE HAVE COME

From derelict docks to a destination waterfront



PRESENTATION

- Context
- Successes
- Facts
- Challenges
- Lessons
- Closing words



CONTEXT



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POLITICAL

- Stability and sustained national economic growth early 1990s to 2007
- Embracing of EU programmes 1990s and 2000s
- Regional policy – growth, narrowing the gap and inclusion
- Urban policy – neighbourhood renewal to city regions
- Central prescription, special initiatives, targets and regulation



REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

- Government Offices – Government *in not* of the regions
- Frustrated attempts to create elected regional assemblies
- Power of the quangos – national, regional, sub-regional and local
- Broadening of the role of regional development agencies
- Accountability: informal partnerships rather than elected bodies
- Renewed emphasis on local government; rise of the city state?



STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

- Government policy chain and ‘devolved centralism’
- Regional strategies and budgets: RES, RSS and soon SRS
- Funding-led strategies and struggles for alignment
- Tensions between city regions and localities
- City branding as a cohesive force (the ‘new’ Liverpool)



MONEY FLOW

- Government departmental budgets to agencies, quangos, local government and authorities (e.g. health, police, transport)
- Government as the gatekeeper for EU programmes
- Discretionary regeneration funding – from bidding to special initiatives
- Squeezing out of local autonomy
- Emergence of the grant brokers and grant dependency



LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

THE SUCCESSES



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*First..*THE SUCCESSES

- Waterfront
- City centre
- Rest of the conurbation
- Capital of Culture



SUCCESS

Waterfront

- Albert Dock and the south docks
- Iconic Pier Head
- New King's waterfront
- Prince's Dock and the north docks



SUCCESS

City Centre

- Historical legacy - best of the past
- Lime Street gateway – first impressions
- Office quarter – a new commercial heart
- Liverpool One – re-shaping the retail core



SUCCESS

Conurbation

- Re-birth of the port
- Rise of Liverpool John Lennon Airport
- Town centre revival
- New business parks



SUCCESS

Capital of Culture

- Year-long programme of events
- Incentive to agree big projects like the Arena, Convention Centre, Pier Head and Museum
- Tourist boom
- Image boost – a winner at last!



LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

THE FACTS



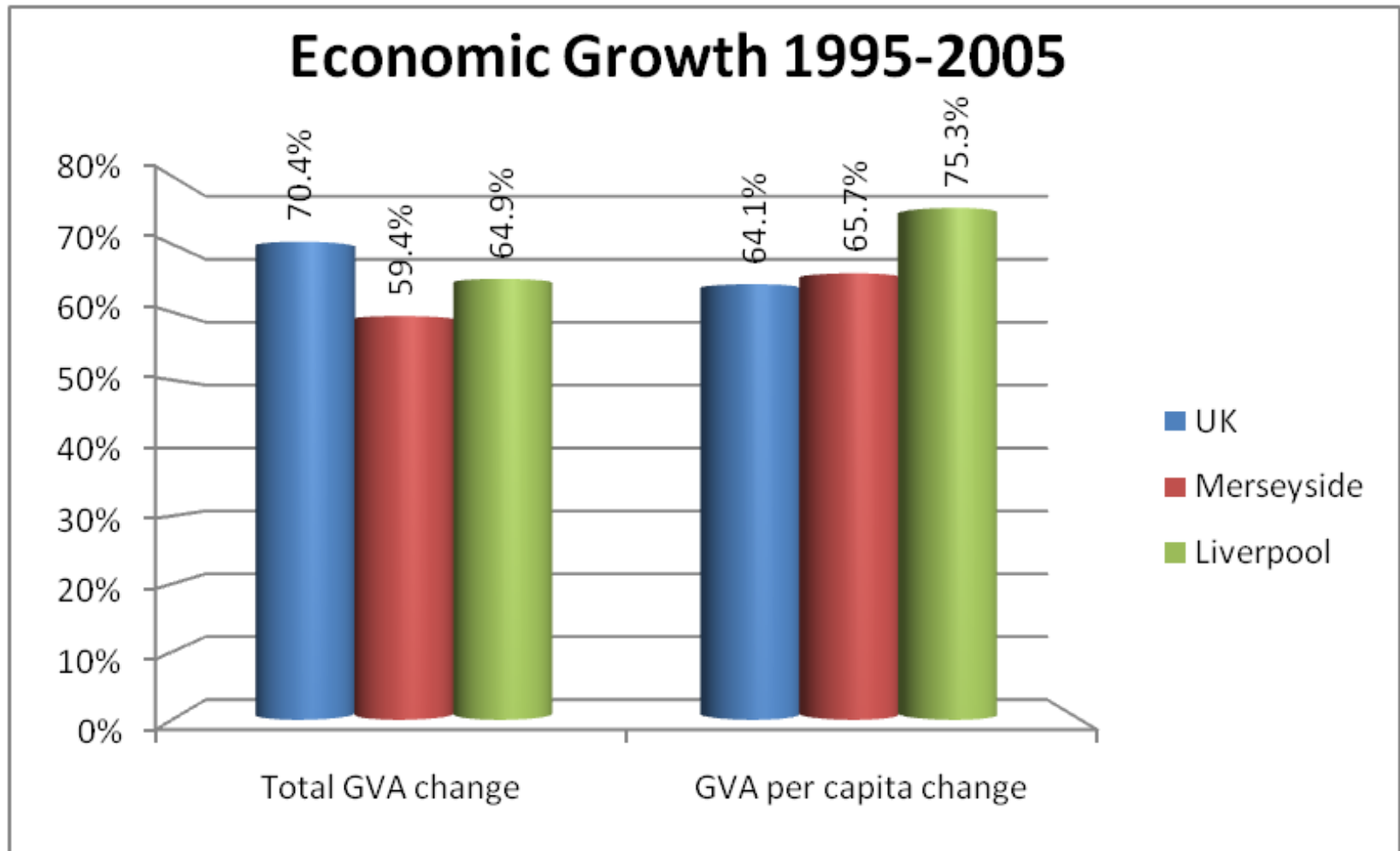
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*Then..*THE FACTS

- Economic Growth
- Productivity
- Businesses
- Skills
- Employment
- Income/house prices
- Population



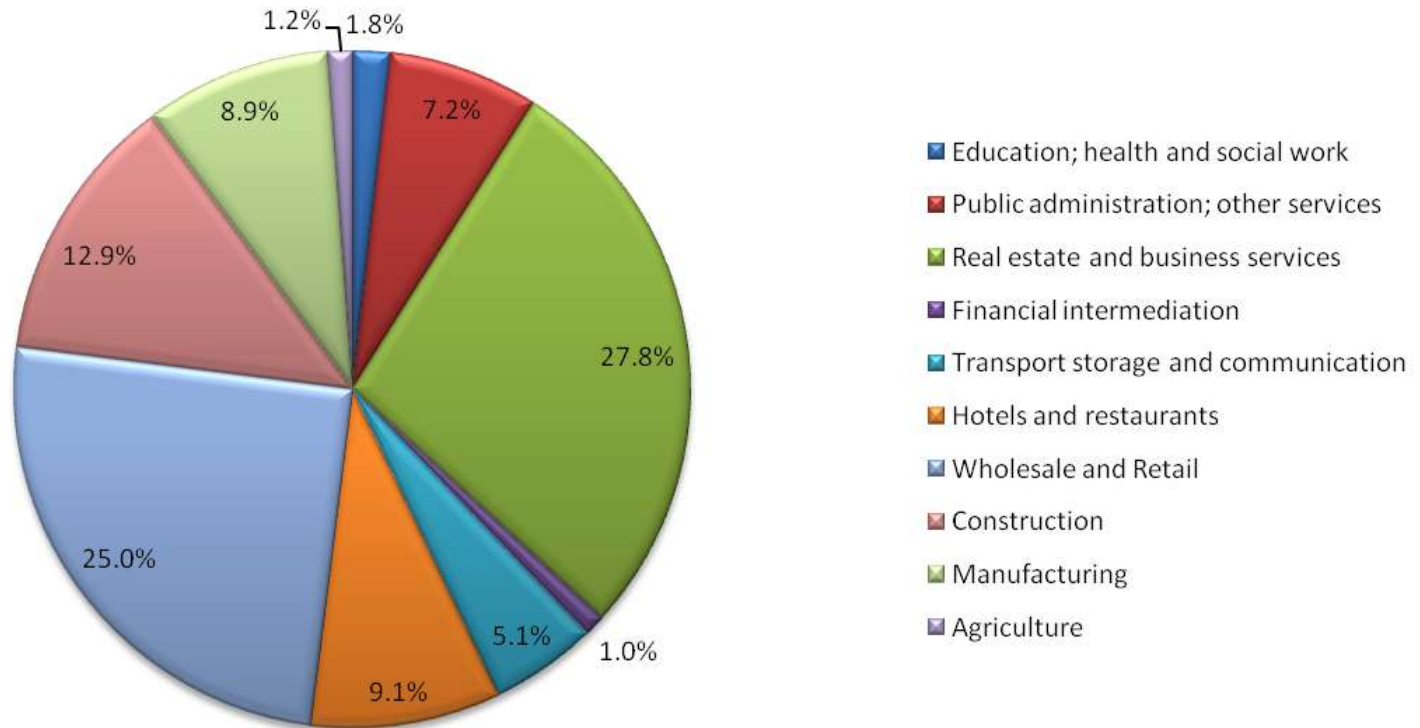
THE FACTS



THE FACTS

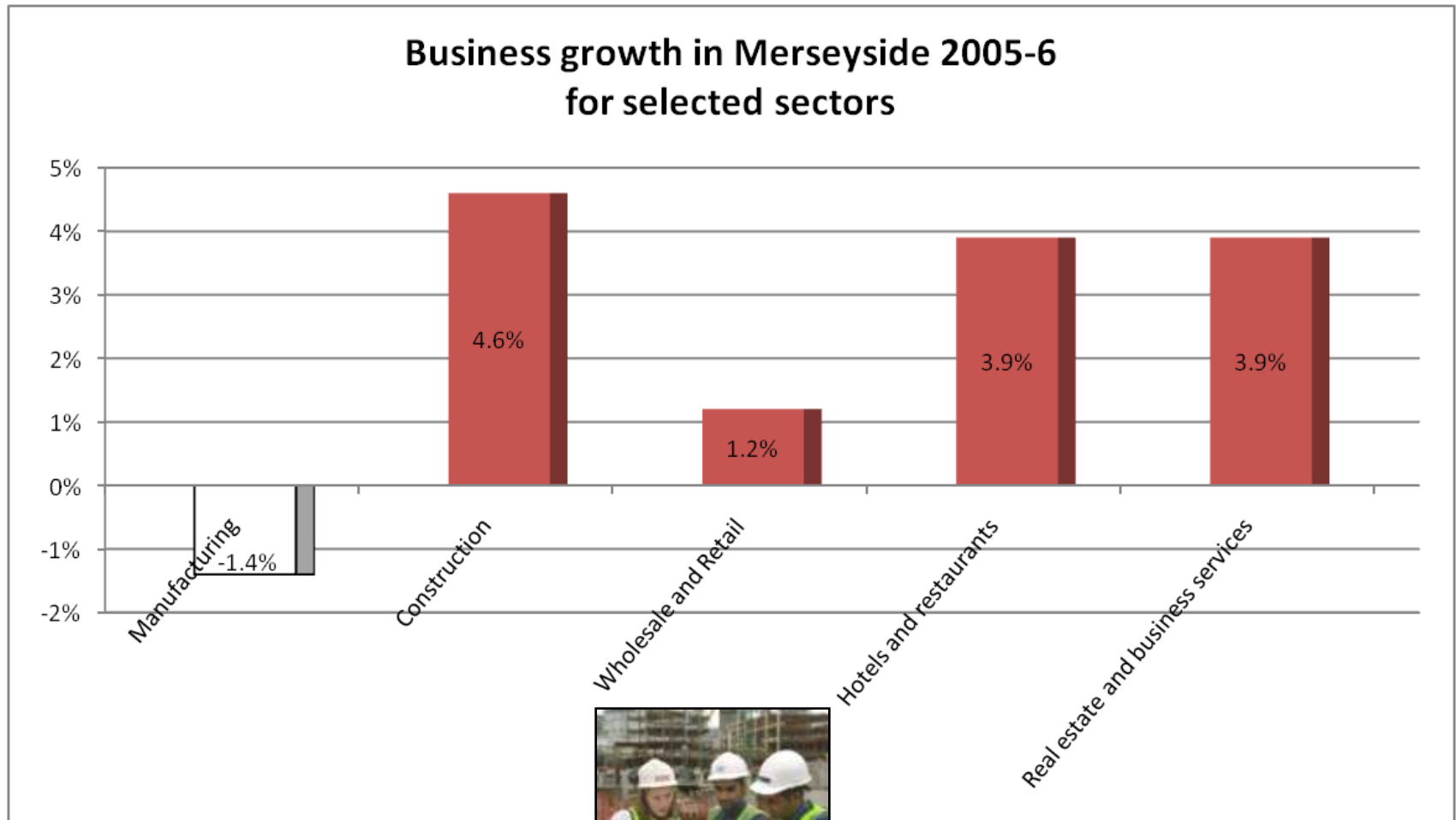
Economic Growth Sectors

VAT-registered businesses in Merseyside 2006



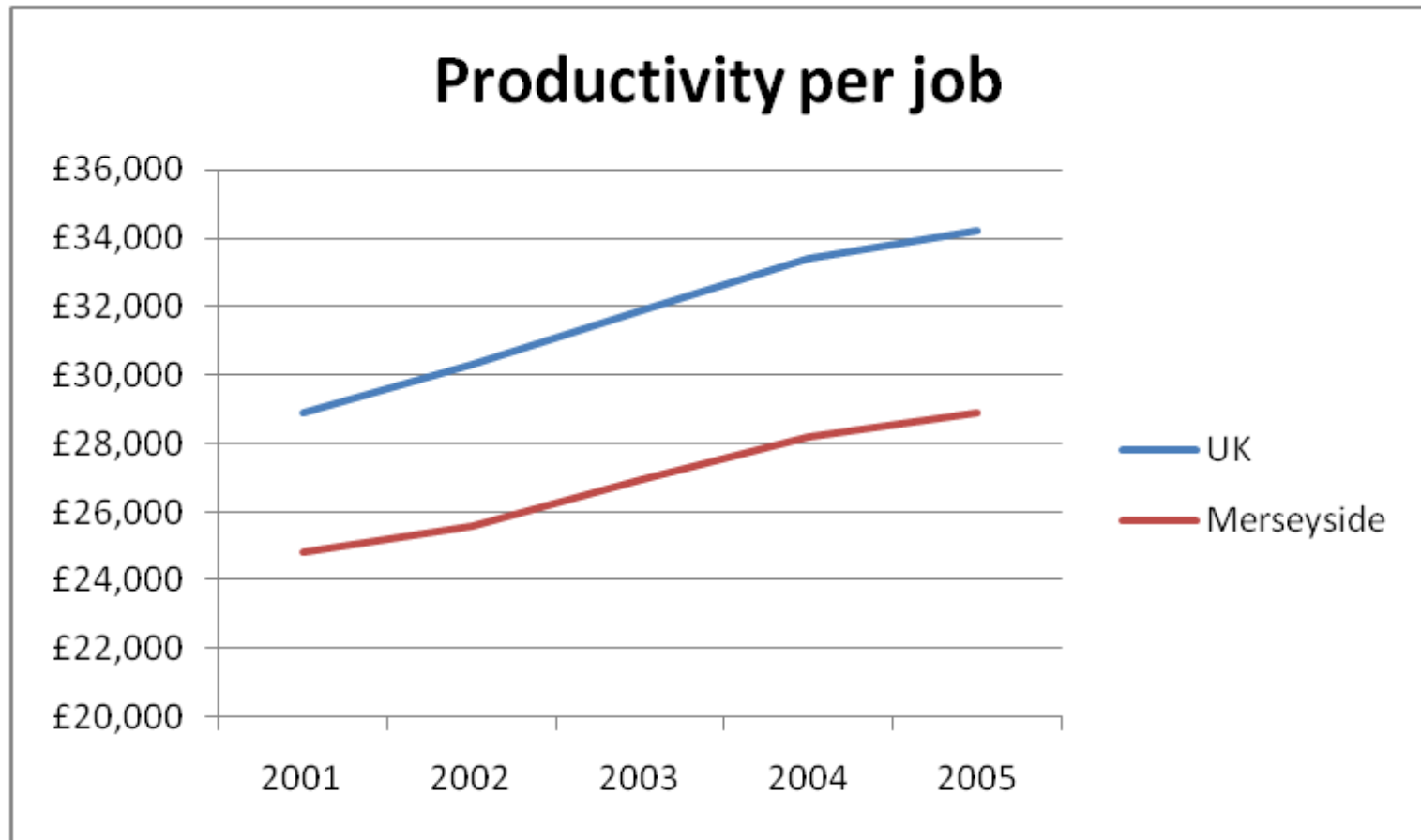
THE FACTS

Economic Growth Sectors



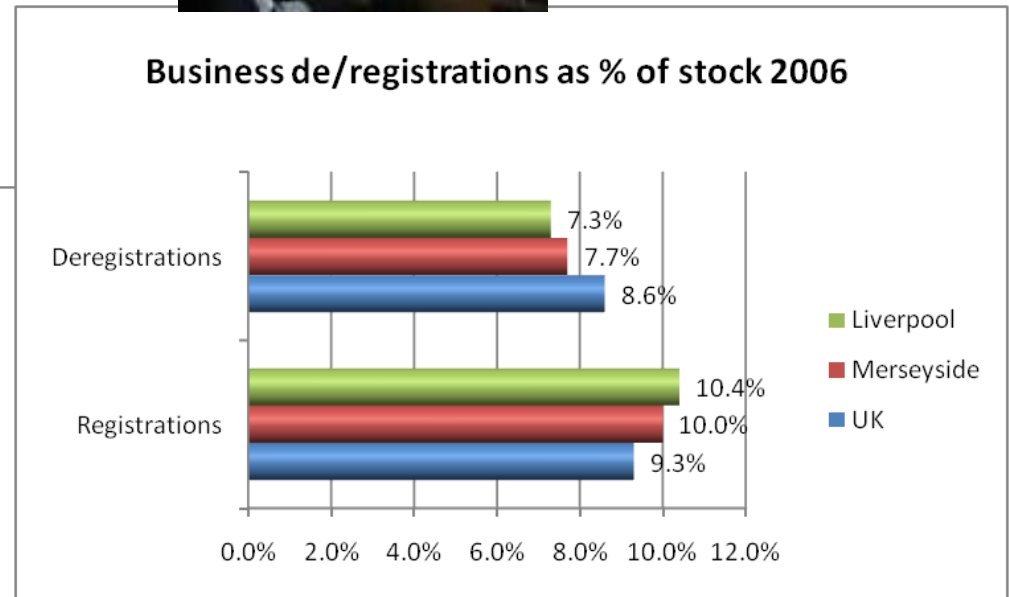
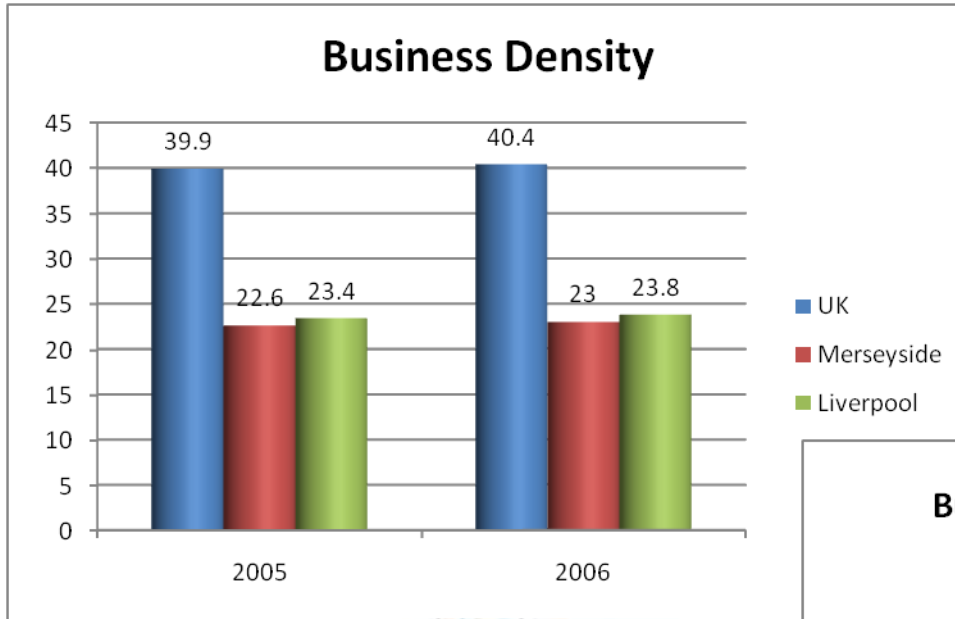
THE FACTS

Productivity



THE FACTS

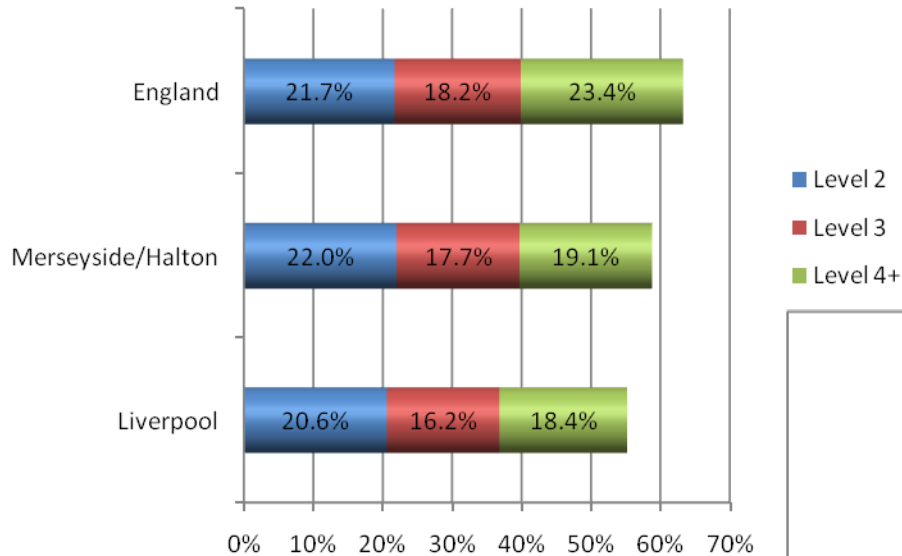
Businesses



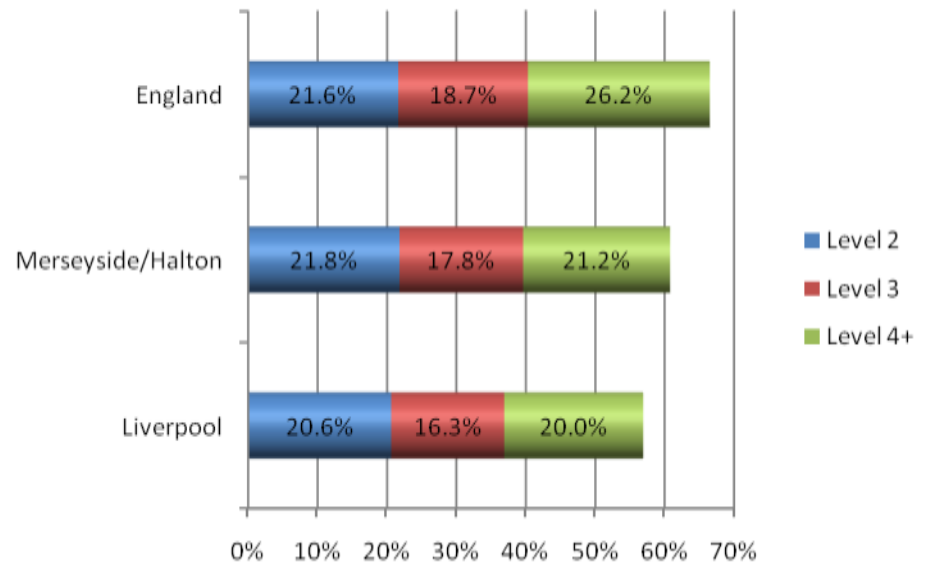
THE FACTS

Skills

Skills level of population: 2001/2

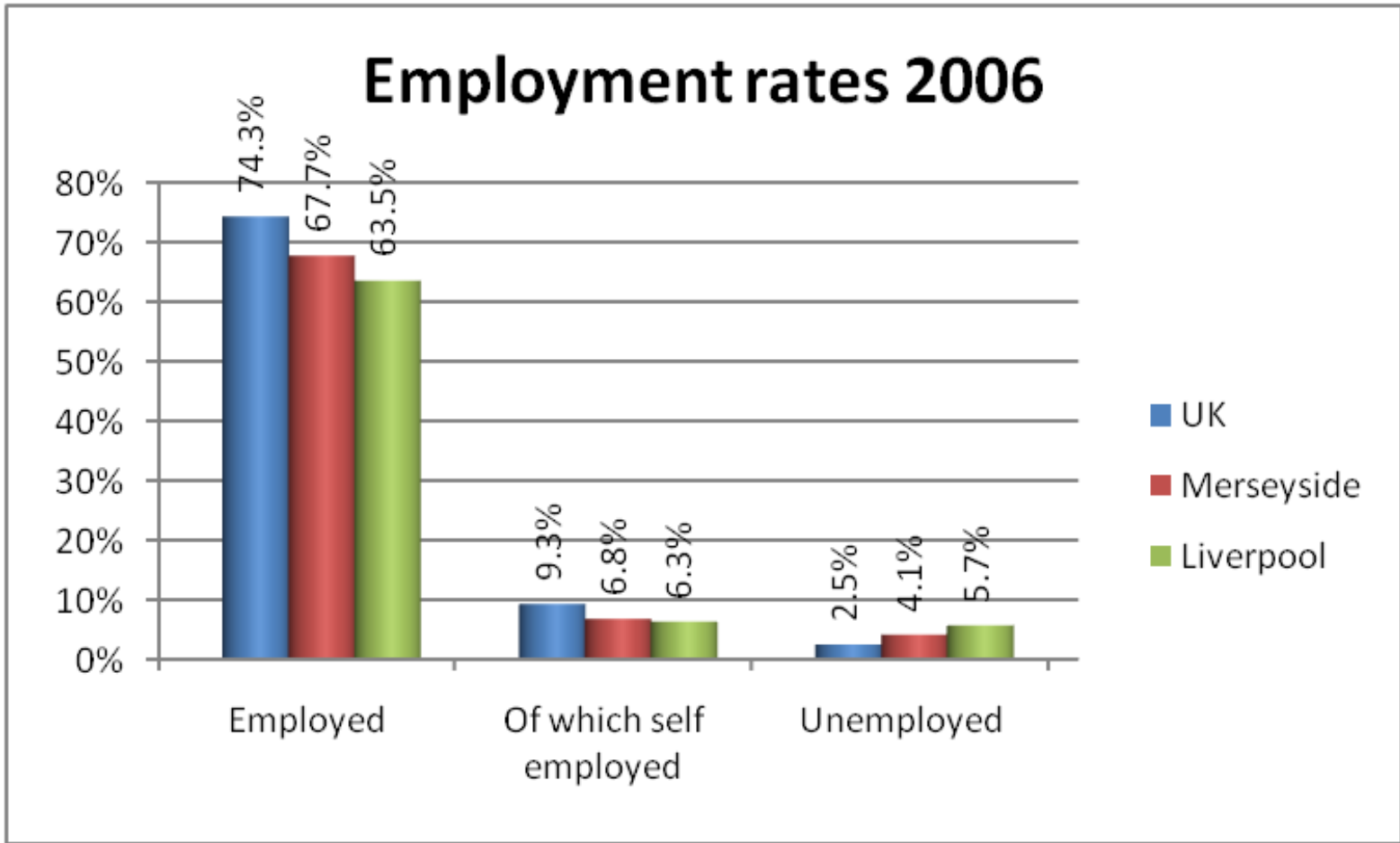


Skills level of population: 2005



THE FACTS

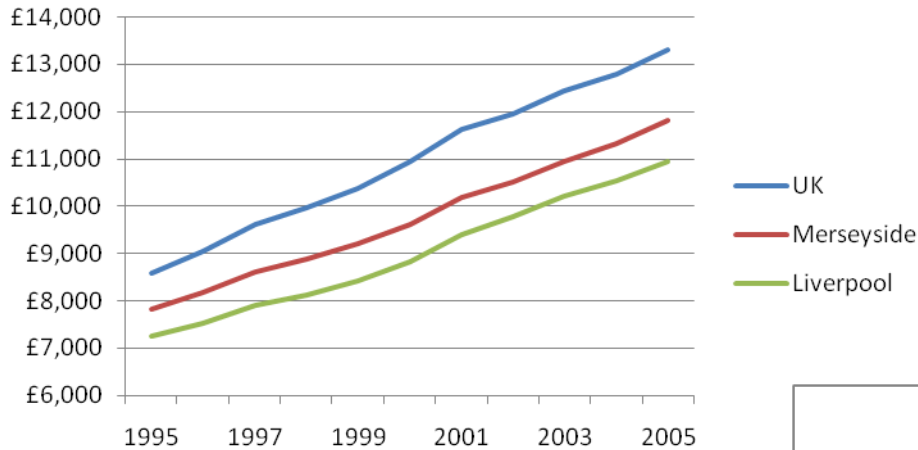
Employment



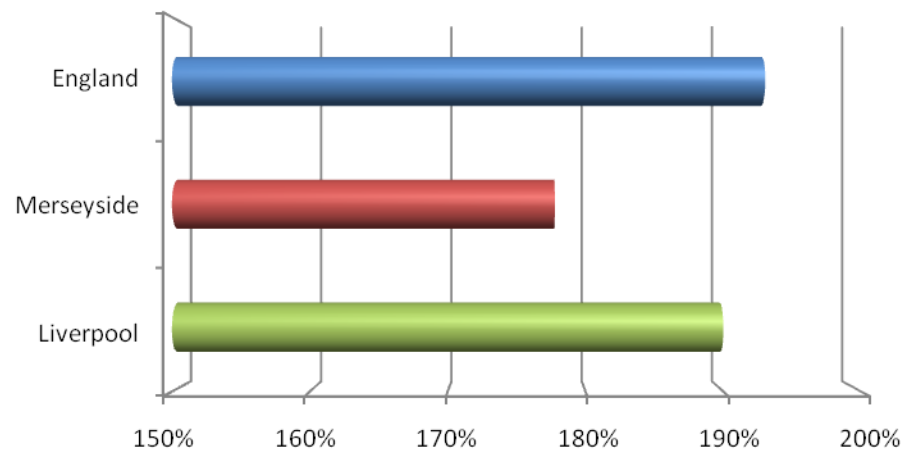
THE FACTS

GDHI / House Prices

Gross Disposable Household Income

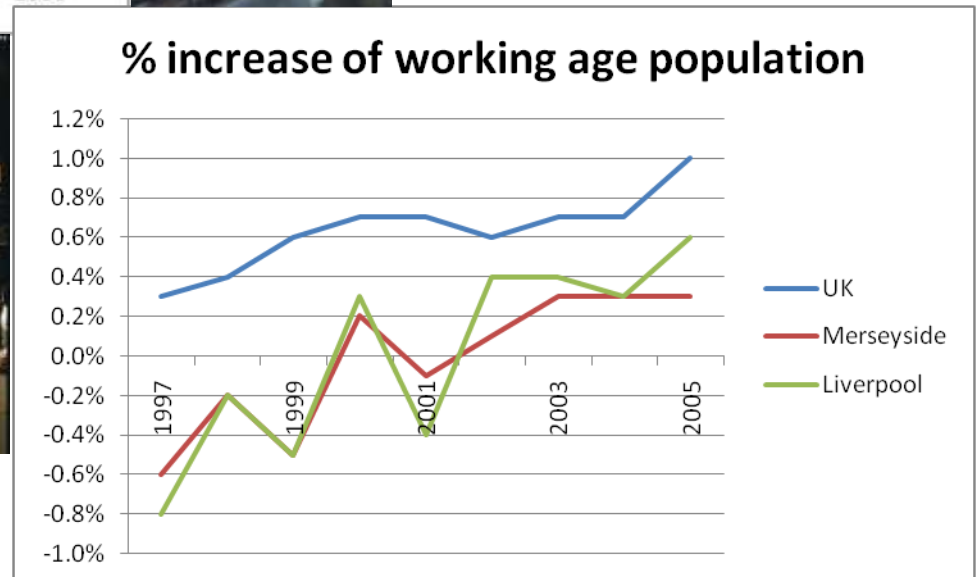
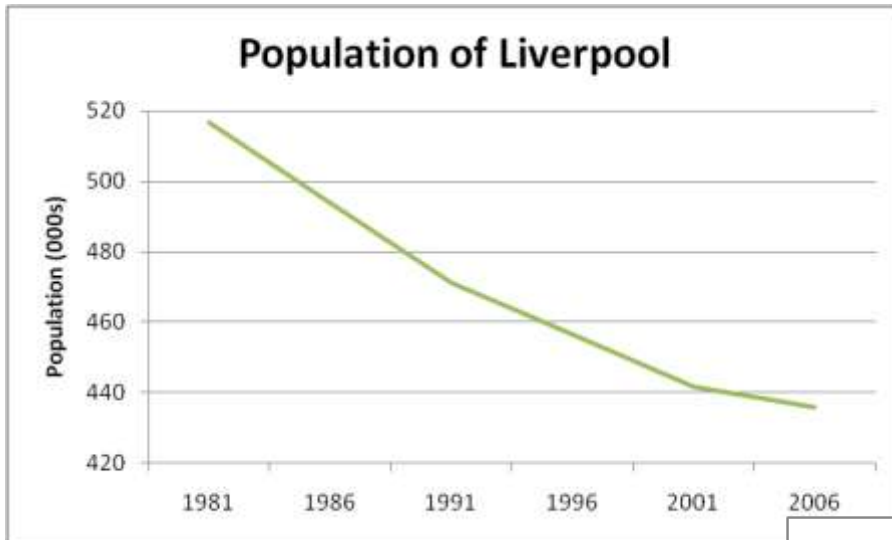


Median house price % increase 1996 - 2006



THE FACTS

Population



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THE CHALLENGES



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*And now..*THE CHALLENGES

- Economic
- Social
- Environmental
- Transport
- Culture
- Organisational



CHALLENGES

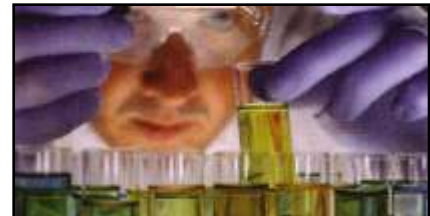
Economic

- Globalism and macro forces
- Need for private as well as public sector leadership
- Less public grant
- Entrepreneurialism and enterprise
- Exploiting the knowledge economy
- Productivity leap
- Worklessness - weaning off the benefit culture
- The persistent gap with UK averages



DAILY POST
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CHALLENGES

Social

- Wealth distribution
- 'Hot spot' neighbourhoods
- Housing market renewal
- Anti-social behaviour and fear of crime
- Poor health
- Low skills levels



CHALLENGES

Environmental

- Last of the 'eyesores'
- Maintaining the public realm
- Showcasing the natural assets



CHALLENGES

Transport

- Liverpool-London and Liverpool-Manchester railway lines
- Port expansion
- Airport expansion
- Road access into the city centre
- City centre traffic movements



CHALLENGES

Culture

- World city?
- Civility, customer care, cafe society, liveability
- Diversity – ‘world in one city’; increase in the workforce
- Positive image – modern, outward-looking, witty, vital



CHALLENGES

Organisational

- Stable politics
- Inspirational leadership
- City region v city
- Devolution from Government and the region
- Appropriate governance structures



LESSONS

*'There's nothing new,
only the history you
don't know yet'*

(H S Truman)



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LESSONS

- Regeneration is a long haul
- Over-reliance on Government money
- Curse of the gap
- Trickle down does not work
- Leadership is key
- Partnership matters
- Be self-critical



A LONG HAUL

- Regeneration programme: 1981-2008 and still going!
- Volatile political and economic context
- Increasing competition from UK and abroad
- Strategy differences: demand-led or supply-driven?
- Realistic targets not just aspirations



LONG (and winding?) ROAD

- 1950s – post-war reconstruction
- 1960s – boom and beat
- 1970s – industrial strife and structural decline
- 1980s – political volatility but beginnings of renewal
- 1990s – partnerships and progress
- 2000s – the market turns



GOVERNMENT MONEY

- Over-reliance on Government/EU money
- Central control of regeneration/unlocking of EU money
- Need for sub-regional/local control and accountability



'...the emasculation of local leadership and its replacement with central government dirigisme. The only parallel is with socialist eastern Europe'

(Simon Jenkins, Sunday Times, 2008)

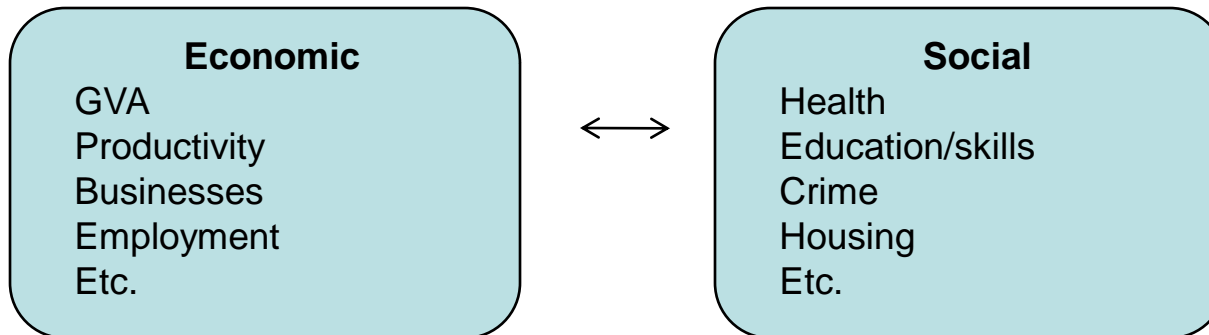
CURSE OF THE GAP

- Cannot grow every regional economy and narrow the gap at the same time
- Will a widening of the gap ever be politically acceptable?
- Liverpool has improved but so has everywhere else – is that success or failure?



TRICKLE DOWN

- Two strategies? Wealth creation and social good?
- Connecting areas of need with generators of opportunity
- Areas of multiple deprivation look much the same as in the 1970s
- Disconnect: money on economic but the people want other things



LEADERSHIP

- Cross-sector
- Vision and action
- Mayor or nightmare?
- Need for collective as well as individual leadership
- Accountability



'The death of civic power in England..Provincial administration has become dependent upon one central agency after another..These overpaid bureaucracies stand pathetic comparison with the elected mayors of Barcelona, Toulouse, Munich or Milan'

(Simon Jenkins, Sunday Times, 2008)

PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

- Avoid cynicism – *‘partnerships are people brought together by mutual loathing and suspicion in search of a common grant’*
- Clarify roles – advisory or decision-making?
- Embrace diversity – public, private and third sectors
- Establish a culture of ‘common endeavour’



BE SELF-CRITICAL

- Dangers of place promotion v cool-headed analysis
- Look elsewhere for best practice
- Look to the past for best practice
- Need for challenge (e.g. observatories)
- Role of universities – ‘critics and conscience of society’



CLOSING WORDS



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REMEMBER....

- Liverpool – some descriptions: *Dublin of England; Barcelona of Britain; Naples of the North; city that they dare not invent; city that still walks with a swagger*
- What are your impressions?



A MATTER OF WILL *in an uncertain world*

'Who knows what fortunes fate will bestow upon Liverpool in the future?'

(Ramsay Muir, 1907)



'It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare. They are difficult because we do not dare'

(Seneca)

ENJOY THE CONFERENCE *and the CITY*

- Don't forget..ferry, cathedrals, Cavern, duck tour, superlambananas....
- Don't forget..our great pubs, from the *chic* to the *craic*....
- And that *every* Liverpudlian is a poet and a philosopher!

