

Understanding 'impacts'... a research agenda

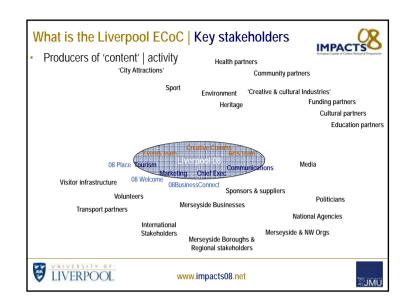


- The Impacts 08 programme (2005 2010)
- Commissioned research | Liverpool City Council +Liverpool Culture Company
 - First city to commission a longitudinal (five year) research programme
 - Aspiration: Identify elements of success within the staging of the ECoC 2008
 - Objectives: Provide evidence of impact across the four main dimensions of regeneration: economic, physical, social and cultural
- Academic inquiry | University of Liverpool and LJMU
 - Holistic assessment of the city to understand positive and negative impacts
 - Contextualise the assessment of impact by assessing processes
 - Engaging in the **methodological** debate | building on evidence to advance understanding
 - Aspiring to establish a replicable **model** for research into culture-led regeneration
- Knowledge Transfer | Northwest Culture Observatory and cultural producers









What is the Liverpool ECoC | Intended impacts



Liverpool Culture Company Objectives

- To create and present the best of local, national and international **art and events** in all genres
- To build community enthusiasm, creativity and participation
- To maintain, enhance and grow the cultural infrastructure of Liverpool
- To increase the levels of visitors and inward investment in Liverpool
- To reposition Liverpool as a world class city by 2008

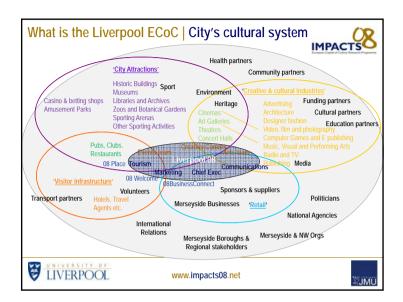
2008 European Capital of Culture Vision

- To positively reposition Liverpool to a national and international audience and to encourage more visitors to the city and the North West
- To encourage and increase participation in cultural activity by people from communities across Merseyside and the wider region
- To create a legacy of long term growth and sustainability in the city's cultural sector
- To develop greater recognition nationally and internationally for the role of arts and culture in making our cities better places to live, work and visit



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What is the Liverpool ECoC | Intended impacts



cultural vibrancy | participation | image

Liverpool Culture Company Objectives 2008 European Capital of Culture Vision

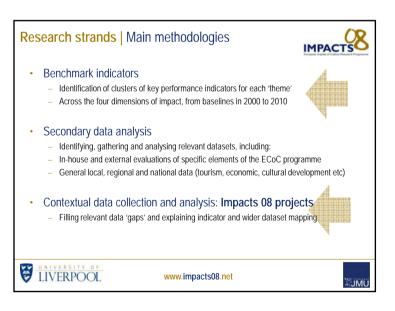
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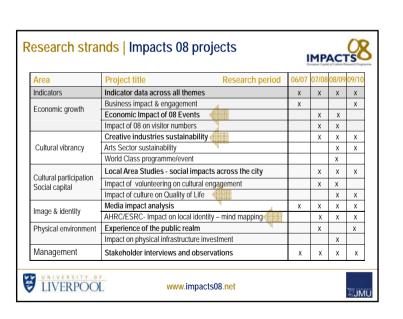


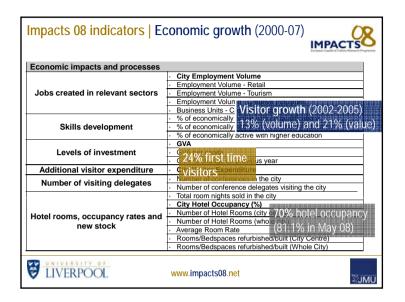












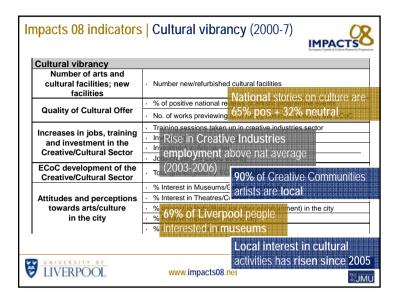
Impacts 08 projects | Qualitative findings (2006-7)

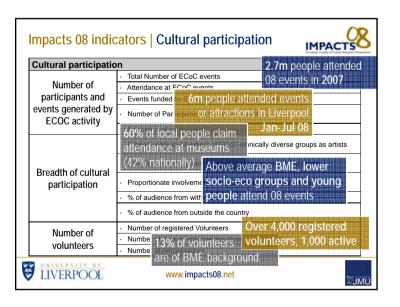


- Perceived ECoC economic impacts
 - In the lead to 2008, ECoC seen by investors as a positive, but relatively minor, element within Liverpool's economic revival in comparison to major infrastructure investments such as Liverpool One and the Arena and Convention Centre.
 - Perceived areas of economic impact: additional tourist activity and attracting senior management staff due to image change and a better cultural and hospitality offer.
- Cultural vibrancy and sustainability
 - Strong networks :LARC, SMAC in addition to ACN
 - Ability to attracted multi-million national arts grants to the city. (Thrive, FYT)
 - Greater **confidence** within the cultural sector in its ability to drive economic growth.
 - Perceived drivers: building on the image of Liverpool as the core brand for the subregion; developing stronger links between higher education and creative industries.
 - Perceived challenges: lack of leadership in the sector and potential drainage of local creative talent towards Manchester and London.









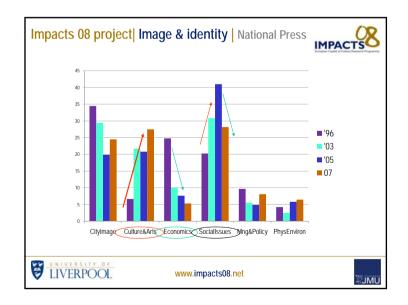
Qualitative findings | Cultural participation (2007)

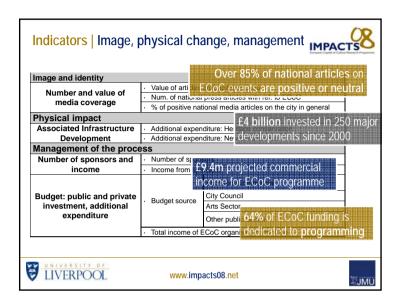


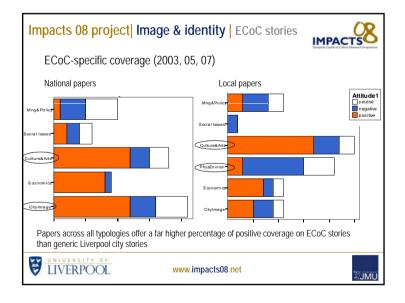
- The awareness of and pride in the city's broad cultural offer is very strong across different Liverpool neighbourhoods.
- In 2007, this contrasted with **low understanding of what the ECoC had to offer** to the people of Liverpool beyond external image change
- Cultural participation varies widely between communities. Residents of more affluent communities engage in more diverse cultural activity and are more likely to travel outside the city to attend cultural events.
- 08 Volunteers report that their involvement in the ECoC has widened their cultural interests and helped them develop confidence and skills.











Qualitative findings | Media representations (2000-7)



European Capital of Culture Stories

- Liverpool 08 has attracted similar levels of **negative** national coverage on managerial and political issues as was the case for Glasgow pre-1990.
- In contrast, Liverpool has attracted much higher **positive** coverage on its cultural offer than was the case prior to 1990.

Liverpool stories

- As in other UK cities, sustained negative media stories about Liverpool as a city focus on crime, health and wider social issues.
- However, in 2007, most high-profile crime stories were presented as a national problem and there was a growth in positive reporting about local measures to tackle crime and improve health and well-being.



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Conclusions



- The need to conduct longitudinal research to understand impacts
 - A five year programme in the lead and during 2008 is essential to establish baselines.
 - However, we cannot estimate the full impact of hosting the ECoC in 2009 alone.
 - The most important legacies of 2008 are likely to emerge over the next five to then years
- Combining quantitative and qualitative techniques
 - Use statistics to assess representative data / capture trends over time / benchmarking
 - Develop in-depth research to allow value assessments / support new methodologies
- Establishing collaboration across research sectors
 - Universities, consultancies, think tanks
 - Independent research + knowledge transfer
 - Diversifying funding for research : from commissioners as well as research councils
- Dealing with time + media pressures



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Qualitative findings | People's interpretation (2006-07)

- In 2007, Liverpool residents' perceptions of the ECoC as a city regeneration programme are slightly more negative than nationally.
 - This reflects the mixed feelings of Liverpool's most deprived communities, who are uncertain about the programme's lasting economic and social benefits.
- Levels of confidence on the lasting positive benefits of the ECoC for Liverpool people vary depending on the neighbourhood.
 - Residents from low income communities feel less confident.
- While there is limited local confidence in the ECoC's social and economic impact, local satisfaction with its cultural offer is very high.
 - 86% of Liverpool residents indicate that they are interested in attending ECoC events and rate them very positively.
- These findings must be contrasted with people's views at the end of 2008



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Recommendations for ongoing research



- Explore new (scientific + creative) methodologies so that:
 - Numbers are contextualised by the stories of a city and its people
 - These stories can be used as **evidence** rather than just anecdotes









Looking in on the City

Who is in and who is out in the City?

Session two: 14.30 to 15.30: Round Table discussion

Steve Miles, Stuart Wilks-Heeg, Stephanie Petrie, Roy Coleman, Department of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Liverpool

Phil Redmond, Creative Director, Liverpool Culture Company







