The Peel Group - Job Creation and the Skills Agenda

The basis of any healthy and prosperous community is access to employment and the development of skills. Peel plays a major role in local communities by creating jobs both directly and indirectly through its developments, and helping to drive a localised skills-based economy linked to future career opportunities.

Over the last 20 years, in excess of 13,000 jobs have been created by Peel construction projects through buildings and related infrastructure delivered by the Group. In terms of employment and training opportunities, this has just been the start. Major developments including The Trafford Centre, MediaCityUK, Gloucester Quays and Liverpool2 have created in excess of 20,000 indirect jobs in the retail, media and maritime sectors. At each stage of the development process the Peel Group looks to add value and opportunity through employment and training.

During the construction of MediaCityUK, working with main contractor Lend Lease, Peel ensured that 50% of the jobs created were taken up by residents from the Greater Manchester area and a substantial 12,862 people received training as part of the construction process. The construction of a world class media hub in Salford also gave rise to numerous training opportunities with schools and colleges across the North West. A University Technical College, focusing on digital and creative media, has been established to assist 14-18 year olds to achieve their aspirations in the rapidly expanding world of creative media.

In Merseyside, Liverpool2 - the deep water terminal at the Port of Liverpool - will transform future transport logistics in the UK. The Port Academy, run by Hugh Baird College in collaboration with Mersey Maritime and Peel Ports (and many other partners), has been established to ensure that local young people benefit from the substantial investment in the Port of Liverpool, projected to be £1 billion over a 10 year period. The Port Academy will help local communities to benefit from employment and skills opportunities for generations to come. Peel invests for the long term and it is therefore important to the Group that we work with our partners, local authorities and local communities to maximise the benefits to the local community of employment opportunities created by Peel’s developments.

Peel brings a GVA (Gross Value Added) to the communities in which we operate of:

£5.4 billion per annum
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At Wirral Waters the development of the Wirral Metropolitan College campus provided an excellent model of collaboration and partnership working. Designed and built in conjunction with the staff and pupils it was going to become home to, Wirral Met College has already won a number of awards both for its architectural design and from the Civic Society for its positive impact on the community. Over 300 students were engaged in the process and the College, which opened in 2015, is now ideally placed to offer construction, engineering and design skills to young people, to maximise their chances of employment as the vision for Wirral Waters is realised.

MediaCityUK, Liverpool2 and Wirral Waters are all projects within Peel’s Ocean Gateway proposal offering the opportunity for 100,000 new jobs in the next 50 years.

Within the Peel Group, well established apprenticeship programmes exist across many of the Peel operating divisions. Programmes running at Peel Ports, Liverpool John Lennon Airport and EventCity ensure that the skills needed by these businesses in years to come are being developed now. Apprenticeships in engineering, facilities management, administration and retail have all been introduced over a number of years.

At Liverpool John Lennon Airport, a unique fire fighter cadet scheme has been introduced and is attracting interest from other Fire Brigades across the UK. Based on its initial success, a second programme was introduced offering three places for local young people. Over 600 information packs were requested, showing the high level of interest of local communities in the local, skilled jobs market. Wherever possible, the Peel Group also works with local organisations and social enterprises in the recruitment process to assist in attracting candidates from the local community.

Jobs and training lie at the heart of true economic prosperity for future generations. They also lie at the heart of the Peel Group’s approach to transforming our communities.