

Making an Impact in the North West

December 2014

North West European Regional Development Fund 2007-13 programme



£640m

committed to local projects
(£1.28bn + with required match)



258

projects funded
(from £500k to £80m)



340

applications of low
carbon technologies



29,500

jobs created
and safeguarded
(further 34,500 contracted)



18,980

businesses assisted
(additional 21,000 contracted)



11,900

business start ups
(additional 5,500 contracted)

The North West England European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme for 2007-13 has continued to have a major positive impact on local economies throughout 2014. The entire £640m of the programme is committed to projects, many of which will continue to deliver, supporting businesses and creating /safeguarding jobs, up to the end of next year.

Newsflash The North West Growth Delivery Team are pleased to report the North West Operational Programme has exceeded the 2014 N+2 (de-commitment) target. This year's target was challenging due to slippage of expenditure on a number of projects. The measures the Local Management Committee put in place and work undertaken with projects has helped to ensure we achieved the investment target – no funding will be de-committed.

The Growth Delivery Team will be working with partners in the New Year to review forecasts and manage commitment levels in the final year of the 2007-13 programme.



EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in Your Future
European Regional
Development Fund 2007-13



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Supporting Businesses

The vision for the 2007-13 ERDF programme is to create a dynamic, sustainable international economy competing on the basis of knowledge and advanced technology. We have a sharp focus on activities which lead to jobs and growth, and specifically innovation, access to finance, business competitiveness and low carbon activities.

The North West Fund passed the £100m investment mark, with more than 300 North West businesses supported and over 2,500 jobs created or safeguarded. The North West Fund for Micro Loans is now open to businesses in the region looking to grow, with finance from £25,000-£50,000 available.

For more info visit www.thenorthwestfund.co.uk

Despite launching in challenging market conditions the **North West JESSICA (Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas)** has made significant strides investing its ERDF resources. **Evergreen**, the Fund covering the rest of the North West, has now fully committed its allocation. Merseyside's **Chrysalis** Fund will achieve a similar milestone in early 2015. In recognition of the Fund's success, proposals for new JESSICA funds, capitalised by ERDF from the 2014/20 Programme, are being developed by LEPs who recognise how a model providing repayable development finance can unlock strategic regeneration schemes and deliver substantial economic benefits to the region.

You can find more information on Evergreen and Chrysalis, including the types of projects funded, on:

www.northwestevergreenfund.co.uk

www.chrysalisfund.co.uk

The SuperFast Broadband programme aims to bring faster broadband (up to 30 mBps) to over 95% of the UK by the end of 2017. Across the Northwest, over 200,000 premises now have access to faster broadband as a result of ERDF investment. **Connecting Cheshire** recently celebrated their 1st birthday and in the last year, with ERDF investment, the project has switched on 270 green roadside cabinets. As a result over 50,000 premises now have access to faster, fibre broadband. At the same time, over 2,000 companies have accessed free Knowledge Hub content with 400 having independent, tailored Business Support.

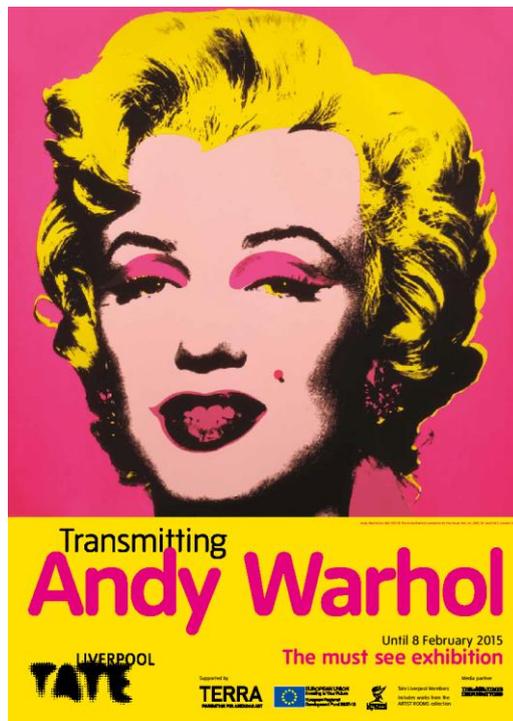
Click on this link for the Connecting Cheshire latest video featuring [The 12 days of Fibre](#) and their Fibre Guys Christmas caption competition.

Further information on all North West Superfast Broadband projects can be accessed via the links below:

[Cumbria](#), [Cheshire](#), [Lancashire](#), [Greater Manchester](#), [Merseyside](#)

Visitor Economy

Visitor spend is a key economic driver in Liverpool and ERDF funding continues to play a central part in boosting Liverpool's credentials on this front. Projects such as New Approach to Place Marketing, the Museum of Liverpool development and fit out and Tate Liverpool's Major Exhibitions Programme projects (see below), are ensuring the potential of Liverpool's visitor economy is maximised and local businesses are benefitting as a result.



2014-20 Programme Update

In England, national Operational Programmes are being developed for the three funding streams of ERDF, The European Social Fund and The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The ERDF 2014-20 Programme will be managed by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and, like the other funds, delivered locally in partnership with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

LEP area strategies and Local Implementation Plans have been developed and these are feeding into the final Operational Programme document which is currently the subject of negotiations between DCLG and the European Commission. This work is still on-going – the current top priority for DCLG staff is to secure the formal agreement of this document.

For more information [click here](#) to visit the 2014-20 programme web pages.

Around the Projects

Across the North West, projects are continuing to develop and deliver. At the **Liverpool Science Park**, the development of the third building, ic3, was completed in June 2014. The £8m development, which received £3.86m of



ERDF funding, provides further state of the art accommodation for knowledge intensive businesses and start-ups. The four story development is linked to the main building of the science park which now, as a whole, is home to over 75 companies. Visit www.liverpoolsciencepark.co.uk for more information.

The Fishergate Central Gateway project, worth £3.4m in total and supported with £1.39m of ERDF funds, has transformed the pavements and roads in central Preston. A shared space for pedestrians and cars has been developed with wider pavements, signs and traffic lights removed and trees planted. The project, delivered by Lancashire County Council, was completed in October 2014.

The Cumbria Business Growth Hub provides businesses with free support, helping them to grow and increase competitiveness. Operating since May 2013, the Hub received £3.8m of ERDF funding and is contracted to deliver 1,319 business assists and safeguard or create 2,053 jobs – it will run until Sept 2015. For more information visit www.cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk

The £61m National Graphene Institute in Manchester (pictured below) is taking shape, thanks in part, to £23m of support from ERDF. The Institute will be a European headquarters for Graphene research and could help turn the area into a kind of 'Graphene Valley'. It is due to open in Spring 2015.



Local Enterprise Partnership Contacts

DCLG work closely with LEPs across the North West on ERDF, both on the current programme and in the development of the 2014-20 programme. To contact your local LEP click on the relevant link below:

Cheshire – [Aidan Manley](#)
Cumbria – [click here](#)
Greater Manchester – [Rebecca Heron](#)
Lancashire – [Martin Kelly](#)
Liverpool City Region – [Angela Woodward](#)

or [click here](#) to access the LEP Network website

Contact Us

The ERDF programmes are managed by The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Contact the Warrington DCLG team on:

Email – [Click here](#)

Tel - 0303 444 6520

Website – [Click here to access](#)