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THE PRIME MINISTER



Department for  
Science, Innovation  
& Technology

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCIENCE,  
INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

**2 December 2025**

Dear Mayor Rotheram,

We were delighted to learn that Liverpool has been named as a finalist for the European Capital of Innovation award. It is great to see the European Innovation Council's recognition of Liverpool's dedication to building an innovation-driven ecosystem, serving as a model of sustainable and inclusive urban development across Europe.


Liverpool has long been an innovation powerhouse, from hosting the world's first intercity railway in 1830 to Europe's first skyscraper, the Royal Liver Building, in 1911. Today, Knowledge Quarter Liverpool is a global centre for infectious disease research and materials chemistry. Meanwhile, Sci-Tech Daresbury is advancing the frontiers of AI and strengthening our tech talent pipeline, hosting 2,000 researchers, technicians and apprentices. As a base for more than 150 tech organisations, spanning AI, cleantech and life sciences, Sci-Tech Daresbury supports a further 2,000 jobs across the UK.

It is wonderful to see the strength of the partnerships between businesses, universities, local government and communities, all working together to translate ideas into impact. The Government is committed to building on these strengths and supporting Liverpool's ambitions. We are investing record amounts in Liverpool through UK Research and Innovation and will build on this with the £30 million we have earmarked for the Liverpool City Region through the Local Innovation Partnerships Fund. Alongside these commitments, we are supporting the Life Sciences Innovation Zone and the LCR Freeport, both recognised as hubs for cutting-edge science and technology.

We are confident that these initiatives will help fuel Liverpool's ambition to cement its position as a global leader in inclusive innovation.

We look forward to further opportunities to celebrate Liverpool's achievements on the international stage.

All best wishes,



Mayor Steve Rotheram