

ECONOMIC VALUE OF LIVERPOOL'S GREEN SPACES MAPPED OUT BY NEW PARTNERSHIP

The economic impact of Liverpool City Region and Warrington's green spaces has been mapped out for the first time in a groundbreaking report issued today by newly launched partnership "Nature Connected".

Nature Connected was launched at an event today at The Isla Gladstone Conservatory in Liverpool. Speakers included Robert Hough, Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership, Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive of Knowsley MBC, Dr William Bird, an international expert on health and the natural environment, and Professor Roy Haines-Young, a leading environmental scientist.

Gideon Ben-Tovim, Chair of Nature Connected, said: "Nature Connected will work to establish a new way of thinking that will contribute to a sustainable Liverpool City Region.

"There already some really good examples of how we are using the natural environment to support new jobs and businesses, improve health and support education. We want to help these good practices become more widely adopted.

"Our *Nature at Work* report identifies how we can invest in our natural environment and strengthen our overall proposition as a city region to help individuals, businesses and communities thrive."

Nature at Work, a ground breaking report on Merseyside's natural environment, sets out for the first time the extent and value of all our green and blue spaces – from back gardens to the River Mersey, street trees to our magnificent coast.

The report shows how our natural environment supports our economy,

improves wellbeing and reduces health inequalities, provides for leisure. access and tourism, and helps manage our climate, as well as providing habitats for Merseyside's diverse wildlife.

The natural environment makes up nearly 80% of the area of Merseyside. Trying to value it is challenging, but it is estimated that cleaning our air and water, providing food and fuel, as well as providing places to play and relax, is worth £100bn/year to the area. The report identifies over 8000 jobs associated with the natural environment.

The full *Nature at Work* report is available to download at www.merseyforest.org.uk/nature-at-work

For more information on *Nature At Work* or the launch of *Nature Connected* contact Richard Hector-Jones on 07966 378 968, 0161 236 0600 or richard@creativeconcern.com