The Peel Group - Committed to our communities

The Peel Group has a long history of working with communities to enhance the wealth and prosperity of the areas in which we operate. We invest for the long term both in our developments and in our communities. Our vision is built around leaving a legacy for communities who can benefit from, and grow with, our transformational developments.

At Peel we look to be creative and innovative in the ways we engage with our communities. Since 1996 we have supported our communities through providing in excess of £30m of in-kind support and assistance. The diversity of our engagement includes gifts of land, the use of our land to create facilities that benefit the whole community, events at our operational sites to attract local people and extensive engagement with schools and colleges to assist in education and training.

“Peel is more than a corporate entity, there is an emotional attachment to what we do”

John Whittaker, Chairman
The Peel Group

Examples of our commitment span the UK.

For example, as part of Peel’s Glasgow Harbour development, land valued at £18m was donated to build the multi-award winning Riverside Museum. The museum is home to over 3,000 objects that detail Glasgow’s rich past from its days as a maritime powerhouse to a glimpse into daily Glasgow life in the early to mid 20th Century.

The Museum attracts over 1.1 million visitors every year.

Peel often uses its land holdings to create community facilities and resources. Land adjacent to Liverpool International Business Park, on the banks of the River Mersey in Speke and Garston, was transformed into a coastal reserve as part of Peel’s work to support Liverpool Sailing Club following years of decline and increasing vandalism in the area. The development of the coastal reserve, now used regularly by walkers, is also used as an example in a European riverside regeneration best practice guide.

Many of the Peel Group’s operating companies engage in community activity simply to involve and enthuse the local community. Peel Airport Group holds air shows at Durham Tees Valley and at Doncaster Sheffield Airport. City Airport and Heliport Manchester runs a programme of family activities every year, with one event alone attracting 8,000 people and raising £5,000 for charity.

Peel has donated a building at City Airport and Heliport Manchester to the Veterans’ Garage, which provides a unique approach to providing support to military veterans across the North West. The community project will restore the Grade 2 listed WWII airport terminal building into a base for ex-servicemen to learn new skills through classic car and motorcycle restoration. Support and advice services will be offered to veterans, as well as the garage providing a social community to help improve mental health and well being.
An innovative approach was used to community engagement in Partington, on the outskirts of Manchester, where Peel has a long standing association. The Hands of Partington project was the novel idea of local sculptor Sophie Mahon, who created a work of art based on the hand prints of 580 local people. Pupils from local schools, residents from homes for the elderly and community centre users all took part and had moulds taken of their hands to form part of the sculpture, which is now installed on the side of the new Partington Shopping Centre built by Peel. The project not only produced a wonderful piece of art in which the community feels great ownership, it also created a great community vibe through the enjoyable, inclusive and fun workshops.

£150,000 was donated to Broadoak High School in Partington to support its efforts to achieve school of excellence status for sporting achievement.

At Frodsham Wind Farm, Peel Energy has taken community engagement to a whole new level with a voluntary 25 year partnership agreed with the local community through the Marshes Community Benefit Fund (CBF). The community will benefit from £3million of Peel community investment for the area over the operational life of the wind farm. £120,000 a year will be donated to the fund by Peel Energy to deliver a variety of community projects which will be approved by a locally selected panel.

Maintaining good educational links and engagement with young people remains important to the Peel Group. Due to the diverse nature of the business, students across the UK are receiving an insight into a wide range of occupations, from retail to maritime, from media to construction. Over 84,000 students have visited Peel projects across the UK since 1996, benefiting from the knowledge and experience of Peel employees over that period of time.

£750,000 given to the Dunlop Social Club for refurbishment in 2009.