



ST HELENS HIGHLIGHTS

2025/2026

#LoveStHelens
sthelens.gov.uk/lovesthelens

ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL LEADER



Hello and welcome to our newsletter.

As we reflect on the past twelve months, I'm immensely proud to see the community come together to support #LoveStHelens, our campaign that shines a spotlight on the fantastic things that make our borough great.

It also celebrates the many people who make a difference every day for their own communities; businesses putting our borough on the map, volunteers giving their time to improve their neighbourhood, and role models inspiring the next generation of Sintelliners to aim for the stars and build aspirations.

And despite the challenges we continue to face, with increases in the cost of living and rising demand in Adult and Children's social care, I am proud that this council has remained steadfast in its commitment to delivering high-quality services and long-term improvements that truly matter.

From the ongoing transformation of our two town centres and the work to bring back the historic Earlestown Town Hall into public use, to supporting over 4,000 adults with long term social care needs, and the securing of six coveted Green Flag awards for our remarkable green spaces, this year has been defined by action, progress and results.



This newsletter is a look at those tangible results of our shared vision and a thank you to you, our residents for your continued support and pride in our borough.

Our achievements have also seen the council receive a number of endorsements from several independent national bodies, including a 'Good' rating from the Quality Care Commission (CQC) for the council's Adult Social Care services, to go with our 'Good' rating from Ofsted for our Children's Services, while a team of independent assessors from the Local Government Association (LGA) found the council to be totally transformed for the better in the last five years and reported that the council was now equipped and positioned to best serve the residents of the borough effectively.

We've achieved a lot, but there's more to do and we'll continue to deliver on the things that matter most to you, our residents.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.



Councillor Anthony Burns
St Helens Borough Council Leader

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GIVING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE A POSITIVE START IN LIFE

Our number one priority is to ensure all children and young people have a positive start in life, achieve in education and learning, are healthy, feel safe, are listened to and have aspirations to be excited about their future.

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

Throughout the school holidays, HAF provides children on free school meals with enriching activities and nutritious meals at a time when support is often needed most. From sports and creative workshops to wellbeing sessions and days out, the Department for Education - funded programme, delivered by the council, helps children stay active, engaged, and connected. More importantly, it reduces holiday hunger and tackles inequality head-on by ensuring that every child - regardless of background - can take part in experiences that build confidence, friendships, and resilience.

Investing in Education

Schools across St Helens are benefitting from ongoing improvements designed to meet the needs of every learner. Recent developments at Mill Green School and Longton Lane Primary have strengthened specialist support, while The Orchard, a new enhanced SEND provision at Rectory Primary, now offers tailored spaces where children with additional needs can learn and flourish.

And the investment continues to grow. Cabinet recently approved an ambitious redevelopment of Broad Oak Primary School in Parr, including a brand-new SEND resource base. Due for completion in September 2027, the project will expand capacity for children with more complex needs, giving families more choice and ensuring more pupils can access the right support closer to home.



447

CHILDREN
LOOKED AFTER



2,332

REFERRALS MADE TO ST HELENS
CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE



1.27M

PRIMARY SCHOOL
MEALS PROVIDED



Family Hubs and Children's Centres

Play a vital role in supporting parents, carers, and young children. These welcoming spaces provide everything from early help and parenting advice to health visiting and community programmes. By making support more accessible and strengthening early years services, the hubs help families build confidence, relationships, and stability - laying strong foundations for lifelong success.

Care Leavers

The council's commitment extends into adolescence and early adulthood too. The new Millersdale project in Clock Face, featuring six trainer flats for care leavers, offers young people aged 17 and over a safe, stable environment where they can gain independence while remaining connected to their schools, families, and support networks.



PROMOTING GOOD HEALTH AND CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

We continue to place adult social care at the heart of everything we do, with the vast majority of the council's overall budget dedicated to providing high-quality care and essential services.

Adult Social Care Services

This significant investment reflects both the scale of need within the borough and the council's commitment to ensuring that adults of all ages can live safely, independently, and with dignity. This commitment has been recognised nationally, with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) rating the council's adult social care services as Good in its 2025 assessment - while a recent survey found high and rising levels of satisfaction, significantly above national and regional averages.

Currently, the council supports more than 4,800 residents through its adult social care services. This includes a wide range of community-based support such as Careline, reablement, day opportunities, and home-based care packages that help people remain in familiar surroundings for longer.

Healthier, Happier Lives

A core focus of the council is helping residents live 'healthier, happier lives', with an emphasis on enabling people to stay in their own homes and away from hospital. By promoting independence and early intervention, the council aims to reduce the need for long-term care, improve quality of life, and support residents to remain in their own home for longer.



WE'VE SUPPORTED OVER
4,800
ADULTS WITH LONG-
TERM SOCIAL CARE



3,850
PEOPLE SUPPORTED TO
LIVE INDEPENDENTLY
IN THEIR OWN HOMES



92.7%
SERVICE USERS
SATISFIED WITH THE
SUPPORT THEY RECEIVE



Innovation plays a growing role in shaping the future of adult social care in St Helens. The council is embracing the use of artificial intelligence and digital tools to enhance support for residents - whether through our award-winning approach to tech-enabled care to help residents live independently, improved care planning, or more efficient service coordination. These developments are designed not to replace human care, but to strengthen it, allowing staff to spend more time on what matters most: supporting people.

The council is also investing in the next generation of adult social care professionals through a state-of-the-art new career's facility in the heart of St Helens. This dedicated centre, made possible through Town Deal funding, will create pathways into rewarding care roles, offering training, professional development, and hands-on learning. It represents a major step in building a skilled, resilient workforce ready to meet the needs of residents now and into the future.



CREATING SAFE AND STRONG COMMUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

Delivering stronger communities starts with ensuring that we all feel safe and secure no matter where in the borough we live, work or visit.

Your Safety is Our Priority

The safety of women and girls remains a top priority, with the council's achievement of White Ribbon accreditation demonstrating our firm commitment to ending gender-based violence and promoting a culture of respect and equality across the borough.

Our recently adopted Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy sets out a collaborative action plan to reduce domestic abuse and address the attitudes and behaviours that allow it to persist.

All supported by ongoing safety initiatives in our town centres, including lighting improvements, safe-home taxi schemes, and the adoption of a Public Space Protection Order - granting police additional enforcement powers that are helping to tackle alcohol-related anti-social behaviour in St Helens Town Centre.

Similarly, our Safe Nights, Great Places campaign has united local businesses, the council and Merseyside Police to promote a lively, inclusive and secure night-time economy in our town centres.

While a newly formed Night-Time Economy Team is working alongside partners, venue staff, taxi marshals, and licensed transport providers to provide visible on-the-ground support during your evening and nights out.



9.7%

FALL IN CRIME AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR



12.5%

FALL IN VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON



609

NEW HOMES DELIVERED IN 2024/25 OF WHICH NEARLY HALF WERE AFFORDABLE HOMES



The town centre's Purple Flag status is a clear sign of the dedication shown by all those who work tirelessly to keep St Helens' night-time economy safe, inclusive and thriving.

A Safe Place to Call Home

We believe that everyone deserves to have access to quality housing that meets their needs.

At a time when the need for good quality, accessible housing is greater than ever, schemes such as Dial House Place and Rookery Place in Rainford have delivered 307 new homes on a site allocated in the St Helens Local Plan, including 92 affordable properties - the largest delivery of social and affordable housing in the area since the 1980s.

Schemes like these are giving local people the chance to live in affordable, modern homes while staying close to their families and support networks.



BUILDING A STRONG, THRIVING, INCLUSIVE LOCAL ECONOMY

St Helens and Earlestown town centres are being transformed to reinvigorate businesses and enhance our retail and leisure offer.

St Helens Town Centre

Significant and highly visible progress has been made in delivering Phase 1 of the St Helens town centre regeneration programme, which includes the new Transport Interchange project. A temporary Bus Hub opened on Chalon Way in Spring 2025, enabling demolition of the former bus station and construction of enabling infrastructure for the new Transport Interchange. Demolition of the former Hardshaw Centre was also completed, with ground remediation works continuing until Spring 2026, when above ground construction will start to deliver a new Market, Hampton by Hilton hotel, new homes and modern retail units, all set within new public realm.



Earlestown Town Centre

In Earlestown town centre, the sensitive restoration and extension of its historic Town Hall continues with the main steel frame in place for the new café and internal heritage works progressing positively. The transformation of Market Square, which includes for the provision of a new permanent canopy inspired by the landmark Sankey Viaduct, and extensive public realm improvements, is also underway.



Newton-le-Willows

In Newton-le-Willows, following extensive community consultation, the Neighbourhood Board formally submitted their Regeneration Plan to Government which identifies priority areas of investment for £20million of funding to be invested in the town over the next 10 years. Three projects will be the focus for year one to April 2027.



Town Deal

Last year saw the completion of several St Helens Town Deal funded projects. This included a £1.3million restoration by Cannington Shaw Preservation Trust CIC of Cannington Shaw No.7 Bottle Shop which is a Grade II listed building and scheduled monument. A £5.5million investment is supporting the delivery of high-tech machines to Sina Medical Glass' state-of-the-art St Helens facility and Elevate successfully completed the installation of a new full fibre network across St Helens town centre following a £2.5 million investment.

Transport Projects

The £60million Parkside Link Road opened in Newton-le-Willows, linking strategic economic development sites directly to the M6 Motorway. A £10million upgrade of Lea Green Station opened that includes a new passenger station building and decked car park. Funding has been secured for a new rail station at Carr Mill, to reuse the former Sutton Oak Rail Line, and further transport improvements across St Helens town centre as part of the Transport for City Regions programme.



CREATING CLEAN, GREEN PLACES THAT REFLECT OUR HERITAGE

We're making St Helens a great place to be by keeping the borough tidy and providing wonderful opportunities to immerse yourself in local arts and heritage.

A Cleaner, Greener Borough

A new Open Spaces Strategy will support the many amazing green spaces that the borough boasts and build on the strong foundations that has seen a growth in Green Flag Parks, with more opportunities for exciting outdoor events and work to protect the native flora and wildlife that thrive here. To help keep our streets and these cherished green spaces clean and tidy, we formed a new Environmental Action Team - as part of a £200,000 investment. The team are out and about across the borough every day carrying out litter picking, pruning shrubs and more. We've also invested in new litter bins across the borough and boosted our capacity to respond to fly-tipping.

Testament to the hard work and dedication of the council teams and community volunteers that care for our parks and green spaces, this year the borough raised aloft six Green Flags - the prestigious international mark of quality. These achievements are as much for all our parks across the borough - receiving the same level of care and attention for residents to enjoy - and it's our ambition to get more of our green spaces accredited.

Strengthening Our Roads for the Future

As part of additional funding from Government we've invested more than £1.2m into the borough's roads including fixing potholes, resurfacing roads and cycleways, repairing pavements and maintaining bridges, tunnels and other structures. And we'll continue this momentum into 2026/27, investing



396,329

**LIBRARY
VISITS MADE**



7.2M

**RECYCLING AND WASTE
COLLECTIONS MADE**



5,747

**HIGHWAY REPAIRS
(INC. POTHOLES)**



more than £17m across highways maintenance, active travel, street lighting, drainage and flood mitigation.

Giving You the Keys to Culture

Our Arts Council England funded Arts in Libraries programme is unlocking culture for everyone, providing novel ways to engage in the arts in our libraries.

This year we delivered 230 cultural events, with more than 100 aimed at children and young people, and the programme has secured funding to continue through 2026.

Bringing Neighbourhood Services to You

A brand-new community hub officially opened in Moss Bank to serve the north of the borough, marking a major milestone in our work to bring local services closer to you and together under one roof.

North Community Hub on Kentmere Avenue was formally opened in December, combining the relocated Moss Bank Library with a range of community, health, and support services - and follows the successful launch of the South Community Hub at Chester Lane.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER BOROUGH

Our budget sets out our plans to help us meet the challenges of supporting ambitious growth across our borough, as well as spending on the essential services that our residents depend on us for.

Our Budget 2026/27

We are continually delivering on essential services in the most efficient and effective ways, and we are working hard to deliver new jobs, homes, infrastructure and opportunities for residents, local businesses and communities.

The Government has recognised the considerable financial pressure within local councils from reductions in central government funding over the last 15 years and has injected funds into key areas such as children's services, special educational needs, adult social care and homelessness. We continue to face significant budget challenges, and some difficult choices have been necessary. However, we are continually delivering on essential services in the most efficient and effective ways, and we are working hard to deliver new jobs, homes, infrastructure and opportunities for residents, local businesses and our communities.

This year, we have committed £150m for investment in projects like the regeneration of St Helens and Earlestown town centres, school building improvements and supporting people to proposer while living in their own homes among others.



£86M

REGENERATION
OF OUR TOWN
CENTRES



£25M

INVESTMENT IN
OUR TRANSPORT
NETWORK



£19M

SCHOOL REBUILDING
PROJECTS &
IMPROVEMENTS



Setting Your 2026/27 Council Tax

Setting Your 2026/27 Council Tax
Our borough has one of the lowest Council Tax rates in Merseyside.

Council Tax does not cover the entire budget requirement we need, but it does raise over £100m to contribute towards services which otherwise would have to be cut. Approximately 44% of households are on the lowest Band A Council Tax.

Depending on your circumstances you may be able to get a reduction to your Council Tax or your property may be exempt.

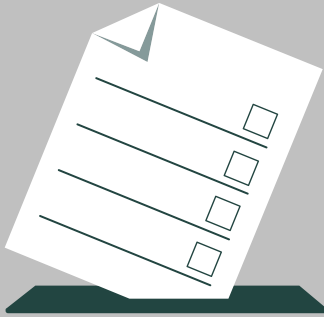
Scan the QR code below to learn more about your Council Tax.





ST HELENS WHOLE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

ARE TAKING PLACE ON 7 MAY 2026



Your vote matters, don't lose it.

Register to vote before 20 April 2026

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Prefer to vote by post?

Apply by 5pm on 21 April 2026

www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote

Need photo ID? Apply by 5pm on
28 April 2026

www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate

www.sthelens.gov.uk/elections

ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL



(STMILIEUZ)