

# ST HELENS BOROUGH LABOUR GROUP UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2021

## SIGNIFICANT NEW BOROUGH STRATEGY AGREED

Our Council has published a **new Borough Strategy**, setting out the vision and priorities for the council and our borough for the next ten years.

With **Labour values of cooperation, care and community** running through it, the strategy titled 'St Helens Together' has been developed following the largest public consultation and engagement event the council has undertaken for years.

This will be the overarching plan for our Borough, setting out our vision and priorities for the council and our communities and each will have a set of measurable actions so we can all monitor progress. Each priority also features "bonds for a better borough", spelling out what the council *will* do, and what residents *can* do. **Read it in full at <http://sthelens.gov.uk/together>**

## PARKSIDE AT CENTRE OF CITY REGION FREEPORT BID

Our Labour council has given its backing to a bid that will put the borough at the forefront of a Liverpool City Region Freeport. **The Liverpool City Region bid earmarks Parkside as the largest and best of three potential sites in the region**, representing a major opportunity to attract a range of investment and support new job creation - <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/02/12/parksidefreeport/>

The Parkside applications for Phase One and the Link Road are currently with the government for assessment after being called in. If the government are serious about levelling up, they should approve the plans ASAP and allow us to deliver regeneration on the former colliery site which has sat empty for almost 30 years. The Freeport bid makes this even more important, as **it has the potential to secure a mixed economy of manufacturing, logistics and rail freight.**

## GLASS FUTURES PLANNING APPLICATION SUBMITTED

The planning application for **the industry-leading Glass Futures project** has this week been submitted to the Council.

The transformational scheme is at the heart of the Town Improvement Plan recently agreed by the town deal board, and the submission of the planning application represents an important milestone in making it happen. Read more - [https://www.sthelensstar.co.uk/news/19065417.plans-submitted-54m-glass-futures-centre-excellence/?fbclid=IwAR0nJQndCPRx5tGOJWG\\_jEINBfvhOCjAxrmHndR2mvO2EzWhPXChS62yqCk](https://www.sthelensstar.co.uk/news/19065417.plans-submitted-54m-glass-futures-centre-excellence/?fbclid=IwAR0nJQndCPRx5tGOJWG_jEINBfvhOCjAxrmHndR2mvO2EzWhPXChS62yqCk)

OUR BOROUGH STRATEGY

2021-2030



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## 2021-22 BUDGET AND £100M INVESTMENT IN BOROUGH PROJECTS CONFIRMED

Budget plans for 2021-22 and a three-year capital strategy have been agreed by Cabinet and will go to Council tomorrow (Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March) - <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/02/24/budget2021/>

In 2010 St Helens received £127m per year in Government funding – now it's just £12m per year. And with the added pressures of Covid on services and communities a difficult situation has been made even worse for councils up and down the country. **The vast majority of council revenue spending is towards protecting the most vulnerable children and adults** in our communities and unlike the government, **we will not turn our backs and leave them behind.**

The capital strategy – which is funded by money we can't use for services – features **projects totalling over £100m of investment** including more than £4m for the Gamble and Earlestown Town Hall to bring the buildings back into full public use; funding for completely new school buildings at Ashurst Primary School and Penkford; a new St Helens bus station; a Youth Zone; and investment at Sutton Leisure Centre including reopening the swimming pool and creating a new 3G sports pitch.

With the Borough Strategy as well, we're setting out a very clear, ambitious and deliverable plan for the council and borough.

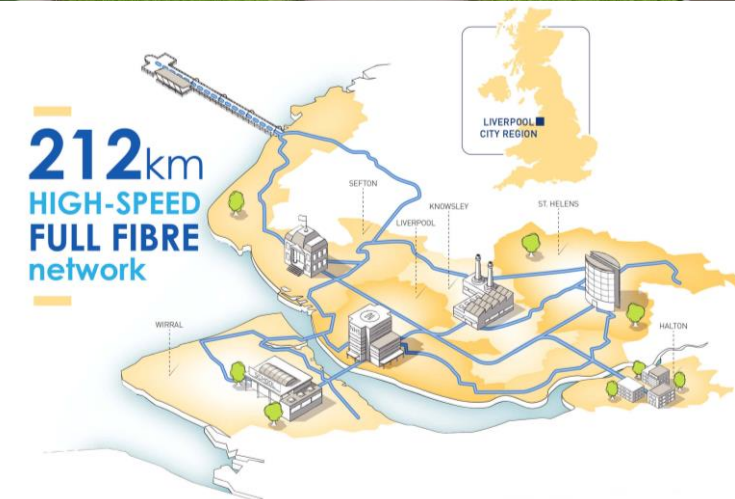
## MAJOR INVESTMENT AT LEA GREEN STATION

Plans have been unveiled to deliver sustainable and active transport improvements at one of our busiest railway stations. The Eastern Region Interchange and Connectivity (ERIC) scheme – a joint partnership between St Helens Borough Council, Liverpool City Region, and Northern Rail – proposes a number of upgrades at Lea Green which since 2018 has seen more services stop at the station, offering more opportunities to travel across the UK.

**It's just the latest example of our Labour council working with partners to deliver for the borough.** Find out more - <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/02/12/leagreen/>

## CITY REGION DIGITAL STRATEGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AGREED

In more good news the Labour-led City Region has agreed an **exciting new digital strategy and a £30m investment** in a 212km high speed full fibre network, with the aim of making our region the most digitally connected and inclusive in the UK - <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/02/26/lcrdigital/>





## CONTACT YOUR LABOUR COUNCILLORS:

**Find your councillor:**

[www.sthelenslabour.org/your-labour-councillors](http://www.sthelenslabour.org/your-labour-councillors)

## STAY IN TOUCH ALL YEAR ROUND:

**Twitter, Facebook and Instagram:**

Search @StHLabour

**Online:**

[www.sthelenslabour.org](http://www.sthelenslabour.org)

## APPLY FOR A POSTAL VOTE:

Elections will take place this May for the council, Metro Mayor, and Police and Crime Commissioner.

**Don't miss your chance to vote early and safely for Labour. Apply for a postal vote today:**

Visit [www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote) or call the St Helens Borough Council elections team on 01744 676464 for help.



**Vote  Labour**

Published and promoted by David Baines on behalf of St Helens Borough Labour Group