



Steve Rotheram

Mayor of the Liverpool City Region

Since 2014, Sefton has been a member of the Liverpool City Region. So, what does this mean for you?

It means that residents can reap the benefits of devolved local leadership – capturing opportunities that may previously have been out of reach and accessing funding only obtainable to areas with Combined Authority status.

Steve Rotheram is the Mayor of the Liverpool City Region. Since he was elected in 2017, he has been committed to building a fairer, more equal future for the 1.6 million people who call our area home, where no one is left behind.

In what has been an incredibly challenging year for many households, Mayor Rotheram has made it his priority to ensure that families in our area feel protected from the worst impacts of the cost-of-living crisis.

From the Mayor's Young Person's Guarantee, which promises all of our young people a job, training or apprenticeship, to Housing First, a radical new approach to helping the homeless, we are leading the way in building a fairer, more inclusive local economy.

To date thousands of our most vulnerable families have been helped to save hundreds of pounds on their energy bills as a result of the Mayor Rotheram's £105m retrofitting programme – with many families in Bootle, Crosby and Thornton given a chance to get on the property ladder in quality, affordable homes through his Brownfield Land Fund. **Sefton will build its first new council homes in 18 years**, located in Netherton, with the support of a £1m investment from the Combined Authority.

The Mayor's interventions have created **tens of thousands of jobs and apprenticeships**, including the **£18m awarded to the new Southport Marine Lake Events Centre** and £3m towards Crosby Lakeside Adventure Centre. **More than £50m has also been invested in local schools and colleges**, including Hugh Baird and Southport College. Hundreds of long-term unemployed people have also been supported through our Households into Work programme.

The Mayor is well on the way to building an integrated London-style public transport network that makes it cheaper, faster, cleaner and more reliable to get around. Despite rising to £3 nationally, the

Mayor has stepped in to extend the region’s £2 bus fare cap until at least September 2025, keeping travelling by bus affordable for residents across region.

Following the landmark decision made in 2023, the Mayor is continuing to make progress in **taking back control of the region’s bus network**, with St Helens set to be the first in line to benefit from cheaper, more reliable services. This will give local leaders greater say over fares, routes and timetables.

In 2024, **£26m was invested in 50 new zero-emission double-deckers**, meaning the total number of publicly-owned, fully electric buses in the city regions fleet will be over 100. They will be introduced across the network over the coming years, marking a huge step towards the Mayor’s goal of reaching net zero carbon in the Liverpool City Region by 2035.

Liverpool City Region residents also benefit from one of the **most generous concessionary travel schemes in the country**. Residents are entitled to receive their travel passes when they turn 60 – a full seven years ahead of the national scheme. There are also discount schemes that help young people, apprentices and people with disabilities to benefit from fare reductions or to travel for free.

The rollout of the region’s new £500m publicly owned trains across stations has been completed. Sefton was home to **the first new Merseyrail station in more than 20 years, Maghull North**, as part of the Mayor’s Merseyrail for All pledge to connect historically underserved areas to the rest of our transport network. More than £100m has also been invested in active travel infrastructure across the region to attract more people to cycle and walk as part of an integrated transport network – including the **£1m Maghull to Kirkby cycling route**.

Ensuring the next generation inherits a greener, cleaner Liverpool City Region is a key priority for the Mayor – under his plans, we will hit net zero carbon by 2035, over a decade before national government targets. Our pioneering work on Mersey Tidal Power, which has the potential to generate enough renewable energy to power 1m homes and create thousands of local jobs and training opportunities, will have a big role to play in helping our city region hit its targets.

The 2025/26 council tax requirement is detailed below:

2024/25 £'000		2025/26 £'000
241,908	Gross Expenditure	292,713
(121,817)	Income and Specific Grants	(161,066)
(105,300)	Income from Levy	(107,090)
(6,694)	Contributions from Reserves	(14,098)
8,098	Council Tax Requirement	10,459
426,235	Tax Base	435,808
19.00	Band D Equivalent	24.00

The movement in the gross expenditure budget is detailed below.

	£'000
Gross Expenditure 2024/25	241,908
Additional Treasury Mangement Income	(2,000)
Transport Related Expenditure funded by Reserves	7,398
Net Change in Revenue Grant Funded Activity	36,959
Inflationary and other cost pressures	6,067
Mayoral Priorities	2,381
Gross Expenditure 2025/26	292,713

For more information, visit www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk

Transport Funding

The LCRCA's transport responsibilities are funded through transport levies across each of the six councils. This funds concessionary travel, subsidised bus services, the Mersey Ferries and a range of other services.

The transport levy 2025-26 for each of the Merseyside Councils within the LCRCA is:

Transport Levy 2024/25 £'000		Transport Levy 2025/26 £'000
11,471	Knowsley	11,708
36,276	Liverpool	37,036
20,518	Sefton	20,788
13,486	St Helens	13,674
23,548	Wirral	23,884
105,300		107,090

Please note that, for historical and legal reasons, Halton Borough Council currently provide transport activities directly within the boundaries of the borough of Halton.

The orders that created the Combined Authority allowed for a differential levy recognising that Halton Borough Council remains responsible for transport in the Halton area, whereas the other areas of the Combined Authority remain the responsibility of Merseytravel. This levy will be £3.455m for 2025/26.

Mayor Steve Rotheram

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Rotheram". The letters are cursive and connected.

Mayor of the Liverpool City Region

Mr John Fogarty, B.A. Hons, C.P.F.A.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Fogarty". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal line extending from the top of the 'y'.

Executive Director of Corporate Services: Liverpool City Region Combined Authority