



Steve Rotheram  
Mayor of the Liverpool City Region

Since 2014, Sefton has been part of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. **But what does that actually mean for you and your family?**

Put simply, it means more decisions about everyday things like transport, housing, jobs and skills are being made locally, not just by the government in Westminster. It also means Sefton can access funding and investment that individual councils cannot secure on their own, helping to bring improvements directly into our communities.

Having a directly elected Mayor gives the city region a single, accountable voice working with Sefton Council to stand up for local priorities - whether that's cheaper transport, better job opportunities or support with the cost of living.

Steve Rotheram has been Mayor of the Liverpool City Region since 2017. Since then, he's been working to build a fairer, more equal future for the 1.6 million people who live here - with a strong focus on making sure our area is the best place to grow up, grow a family and grow a business.

To help with the rising cost of living, the Mayor is freezing the Mayoral precept this year. In 2026/27, the precept remains £24.00 for a Band D property. Most households in Sefton will pay the Band A rate of £16.00 for the whole year - about £1.33 a month.

That contribution helps fund services and investment that benefit residents across Sefton and the wider city region.

### **Better homes, jobs and opportunities for local people**

Thousands of households across the city region have already benefited from a £105 million programme to make homes warmer and more energy efficient - helping families cut energy bills, stay warm in winter and improve their quality of life.

A record £700 million has also been secured for social and affordable housing, meaning more people in Sefton can access a decent, secure home they can actually afford.

Alongside this, tens of thousands of jobs and apprenticeships have been created across the city region, backed by more than £50 million invested in schools, colleges and training - including Hugh Baird College and South Sefton College. This support is helping people of all ages gain the skills employers need and access better-paid, more secure work.

For young people, this means clearer pathways into jobs, training and apprenticeships closer to home, rather than having to leave the area to get on in life. And through programmes like *Households into Work*, hundreds of long-term unemployed residents have been supported to rebuild confidence, gain new skills and move back into employment.

Together, this work is about making sure opportunity isn't determined by where you're born - and that both today's workforce and the next generation can build a future here in Sefton.

### **Transport that saves time and money**

A £1.6 billion transport settlement is helping to create a public transport network that is cheaper, quicker and more reliable - making it easier to get to work, college, school and family.

This has included £2 single bus fares, capped fares for under-18s, new publicly owned trains and buses, and smart tap-and-go ticketing on the way - all designed to reduce costs and simplify journeys.

Plans for Northern Powerhouse Rail have also taken a major step forward, with £45 billion committed nationally and over £1 billion already agreed for early development. This will mean faster and more frequent trains between Liverpool and Manchester via Warrington, improving connections and opening up new job opportunities across the North - including for people living in Sefton.

Sefton is already served by the city region's new £500 million Merseyrail fleet - including the UK's first battery-powered passenger trains. Contactless, tap-and-go travel is being introduced across the network to make journeys quicker and easier.

From next year, buses in Sefton will be brought back under local control for the first time in 40 years. Bus franchising will allow routes, fares and timetables to be planned around local needs, helping to make services more reliable and better connected to jobs, schools, healthcare and town centres.

Over £70 million has been put into walking and cycling routes to make active travel safer and more convenient.

Sefton residents also benefit from one of the most generous concessionary travel schemes in the country, with free travel starting at age 60 - seven years earlier than the national scheme - supporting independence, access to work and training, and helping people stay connected to friends, family and essential services.

### **Local investment you can see**

Sefton has already benefited from significant, visible investment - including £19 million for Crosby town centre, £32 million to transform Bootle town centre, and £2.6 million for Southport's Enterprise Arcade.

Additional funding has supported the Marine Lake Events Centre and work to improve the local visitor economy, alongside investment in walking and cycling routes across the borough. Around £4 million has also been invested in repairing roads and potholes across the borough.

### Cleaner energy, lower bills and a stronger future

The Liverpool City Region has committed to reaching net zero by 2035 - not just to cut carbon, but to help secure cleaner, cheaper and more reliable energy for local people.

This means focusing on creating skilled local jobs, reducing exposure to rising energy costs and protecting communities from the increasing impacts of extreme weather.

Projects like Mersey Tidal Power could eventually generate enough renewable electricity to power hundreds of thousands of homes, helping to build long-term energy security while supporting jobs and growth here in the region.

The 2026/27 council tax requirement is detailed below:

<b>2025/26 £'000</b>		<b>2026/27 £'000</b>
292,713	Gross Expenditure	349,370
(161,066)	Income and Specific Grants	(208,740)
(107,090)	Income from Levy	(110,303)
(14,098)	Contributions from Reserves	(19,667)
<b>10,459</b>	<b>Council Tax Requirement</b>	<b>10,660</b>
435,808	Tax Base	444,165
<b>24.00</b>	<b>Band D Equivalent</b>	<b>24.00</b>

The movement in the gross expenditure budget is detailed below:

	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Gross Expenditure 2025/26</b>	<b>292,713</b>
Additional Reserves funded expenditure	5,569
Net Change in Revenue Grant Funded Activity	39,564
Inflationary and other cost pressures	5,079
Transport Related cost pressures	6,445
<b>Gross Expenditure 2026/27</b>	<b>349,370</b>

For more information, visit [www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk](http://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 2026/27 for each of the Merseyside Councils within the LCRCA is:

<b>Transport Levy 2025/26 £'000</b>		<b>Transport Levy 2026/27 £'000</b>
11,708	Knowsley	12,152
37,036	Liverpool	38,047
20,788	Sefton	21,401
13,674	St Helens	14,118
23,884	Wirral	24,585
<b>107,090</b>		<b>110,303</b>

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

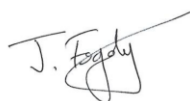
The orders that created the Combined Authority allowed for a differential levy recognising that Halton Borough Council remains responsible for transport in the Halton area, whereas the other areas of the Combined Authority remain the responsibility of Merseytravel. This levy will be £3.558m for 2026/27.

**Mayor Steve Rotheram**



Mayor of the Liverpool City Region

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



Executive Director - Resources: Liverpool City Region Combined Authority