



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

CANDIDATE BRIEFING PACK

CHIEF EXECUTIVE & HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

LEADING ST HELENS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN JOINING ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL AS OUR NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

This is an exciting time to join the council in a key leadership role as we stand on the precipice of delivering an ambitious regeneration programme for our borough, that will grow the local economy, provide jobs and opportunities for residents, and raise aspirations for our young people.

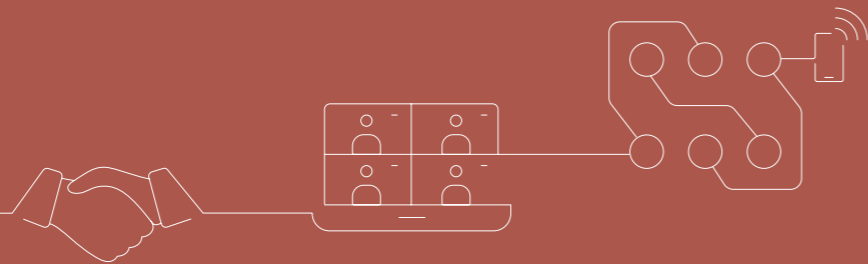
As Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service you will provide strong, collaborative, visible, strategic leadership to ensure the delivery of this once in a lifetime regeneration, as well as being passionate about delivering good quality services which create the conditions for our residents to thrive.

You will be an ambassador for the council and St Helens Borough at a local, regional and national level, and a key influencer who is able to shape and deliver outcomes that will benefit St Helens and the wider Liverpool City Region.

As a key partner within the Liverpool City Region, you will support and drive our strategic policy direction alongside the Council Leader. People are at the heart of everything we do here in St Helens, and we will expect you to exemplify our values and behaviours in your leadership, political interface, and place shaping. If you think your ambition can match ours, then please get in touch.

The role of Chief Executive also requires you to act as Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer for St Helens Borough Council.

Hear from our Council Leader, Anthony Burns:



WE ARE ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL

ST HELENS IS A MODERNISING COUNCIL WHICH IS PASSIONATE AND AMBITIOUS ABOUT THE CHILDREN AND ADULTS WE SUPPORT, OUR COMMUNITIES AND OUR WORKFORCE.

As a former industrial borough, the council is not without its challenges. Significant reductions in funding over the last decade coupled with rising demand, and volatility and uncertainty in the economy has ensured a council-wide focus on delivering efficiencies, maximising commercial opportunities, pushing for social value, and providing greater value for money.

Despite these challenges, the council has made significant improvements to modernise and transform into a fit for purpose, well managed organisation delivering high quality services through effective partnership working. It's positioning within the Liverpool City Region has enabled it to capitalise on new freedoms and opportunities as well as evidence its ability to deliver at pace and with impact. The council remains ambitious in its plans to regenerate place and people, addressing long-standing inequalities whilst maintaining effective support to vulnerable people, capitalising on new opportunities and technologies.

We continue to build on our significant progress, achieved over the past 5 years, which is only possible because of our highly valued, skilled, and supported workforce. We are committed to ensuring that our workforce strategy enables the

delivery of our ambitious plans for our borough and develops sustainable workforce capability, agility and skills to support our plans for many years into the future.

Our Borough Strategy 2030 presents a clear and long-term narrative about our priorities and ambitions. We continue to develop an increasingly evidenced based approach to understanding the needs of our communities and a sound basis for our strategic ambitions. Importantly, the outcomes framework against which our performance in achieving each of our priorities is also shared.

Our organisational values were developed collaboratively, with colleagues participating in workshops run across the organisation and in a variety of locations. We have made good progress in our organisational culture improvement journey and strive to embed our values further to ensure the genuinely values based culture we strive for.

We are a council with high ambitions, strong and stable political leadership, an experienced executive and senior leadership team and a passionate and committed workforce. We are a place that is full of energy and focus and an exciting future ahead.

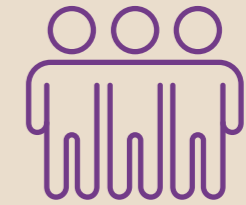
OUR BOROUGH STRATEGY PRIORITIES



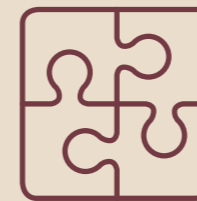
ENSURE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A POSITIVE START IN LIFE



PROMOTE GOOD HEALTH, INDEPENDENCE AND CARE ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES



CREATE SAFE AND STRONG COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS FOR ALL



SUPPORT A STRONG, THRIVING, INCLUSIVE AND WELL-CONNECTED LOCAL ECONOMY



CREATE GREEN AND VIBRANT PLACES THAT REFLECT OUR HERITAGE AND CULTURE



BE A RESPONSIBLE COUNCIL

ABOUT ST HELENS BOROUGH

ST HELENS BOROUGH IS A PLACE WE'RE EXTREMELY PROUD OF.

Our borough is situated in Merseyside and is proud to be part of the Liverpool City Region. It covers an area of 136 square kilometres and is home to over 185,000 people with approximately 4,800 businesses based in the borough.

Situated in the heart of the Northwest, half way between Manchester and Liverpool with excellent rail and road connectivity it is ideally placed to take advantage of its many strengths and potential opportunities.

It is a place with a strong identity and cultural history, rooted in its world-famous rugby league team and its industrial heritage. The borough also has a strong arts and culture scene and is home to two Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations. Its residents are extremely proud of the borough, its history, and its sporting prowess. Its semi-rural nature, with over 65% of the area green belt, makes for a very attractive place to live, with strong growth in new housing and increasing numbers of people choosing to live here thanks to the connectivity to the cities, beautiful countryside, lower house prices and friendly communities.

The main town in the borough is also called St Helens. Its second town is the historic market town of Earlestown/Newton-le-Willows.

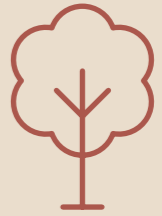
The borough is undergoing a huge transformational programme with more than £2003m invested across a range of projects over the next 3 to 4 years. This programme includes the once in a generation redevelopment of both borough's town centres. The council has partnered with the English Cities Fund (ECF) to develop the towns. Phase one of the multi-million-pound St Helens town centre regeneration includes a new market hall, smaller retail units, a new Hampton by Hilton Hotel, new homes, a new transport interchange and a new Gamble Square – a pedestrianised public realm space. You can read more about St Helens town centre regeneration [here](#).

The historic market town of Earlestown, home to the oldest working market in the country, is also undergoing regeneration, including the creation of a new covered market canopy to provide cover for up to 60 market stalls, a new pedestrianised public square, upgrades to market street and the complete refurbishment of the 125 year old, Grade II listed, Earlestown Town Hall. The market square, canopy and town hall refurbishment were granted Reserved Matters Planning Permission and construction work is due to start in Spring 2025. You can read more about Earlestown town centre regeneration [here](#).

Our town centres are just part of our transformation. As part of the Liverpool City Region Life Science Investment Zone, development of St Helens Manufacturing and Innovation Campus is underway. The campus comprises of a mix of redevelopment, growth and land development projects on the site of the former United Glass and the current NSG Pilkington UK site. The location will see significant investment in new life science manufacturing and innovation accommodation and strategy. The campus will include SINA Medical Glass, Glass Futures, Inovus Medical and Project Halo – which will all provide high quality jobs as well as raising aspirations and providing opportunities for our young people.

Parkside is another huge regeneration project and is a joint venture between the council and developer Langtree. Parkside is one of the largest strategic employment sites in the Northwest and will see the development of a 2.6million sq ft manufacturing and logistics park. Parkside is a key component of the Liverpool City Region's Freeport, and as such businesses located there may benefit from significant tax and custom benefits. Due to the sites connectivity – it is bounded by the West Coast mainline and Liverpool-Manchester railway, there is scope to develop an adjacent Strategic Rail Freight Interchange in an extension to the site.

The council and the Liverpool City Region have constructed the Parkside Link Road which links Parkside directly to Junction 22 of the M6. The link road is due to open in Spring 2025. You can read more about Parkside [here](#).



St Helens Borough covers 136sqm, **65%** is green space. There is a good motorway, train and bus network



92 public parks and green spaces (720 hectares)



more than **85,000** residents

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

As our new Chief Executive, you will perform the most senior role in St Helens Borough Council and will work closely with the Leader of the Council in setting our overall strategic direction. You will work collaboratively with Cabinet Members, leadership of all political parties and all Elected Members to ensure that the council can efficiently and effectively meet its key objectives.

Leadership of the Executive Management Team and the Senior Leadership Team will be central to the role in order to ensure that the council remains ahead of the curve and on track to deliver our regeneration programme, further performance improvements and modernisation, and achieve our long term goals.

As Chief Executive you will be an innovator and a driving force in the next phase of the transformation of the council, at the forefront of change in local government, bringing together partner organisations and stakeholders to develop service provision, maximising efficiency and improving the resident experience.

The postholder must therefore possess significant local government understanding, business acumen, be a highly credible leader of people and an extremely effective communicator.



WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

The retirement of our Chief Executive Kath O'Dwyer, creates a once-in-a-career opportunity to lead an outstanding local authority.

We're looking for a new Chief Executive who both understands our ambitions and has the technical and personal skillset to help us achieve it. You'll understand the concept of real stewardship of place and people and will be motivated to build on the strong foundations that have been built in recent years. And you'll exhibit the same high values, vision and behaviours that we have set out for the organisation.

You'll be an exceptional leader of teams at all levels, you'll know how to engage and inspire colleagues to get behind a collective plan. Equally, you need to be well connected to central government, policymakers and those with influence at the macro level.

You'll bring an impressive track record in shifting the dial on major issues, as well as the ambition and creativity to keep us as the forefront of the sector.

A CREDIBLE AND ENERGISING LEADER – RESPECTED LOCALLY, REGIONALLY AND NATIONALLY – YOU'LL BE READY TO PLAY YOUR PART IN THE NEXT CHAPTER OF OUR REMARKABLE STORY.

OUR MISSION, VISION AND VALUES



OUR MISSION

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER BOROUGH, WITH PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO



OUR VISION

WORKING TOGETHER AT ST HELENS:

- EVERYONE IS INCLUDED
- EVERYONE HAS A VOICE
- EVERYONE IS EMPOWERED TO INFLUENCE
- EVERYONE IS PROUD OF WHAT WE DO



OUR VALUES

THIS IS WHAT MAKES US TICK: TRUST, INTEGRITY, COLLABORATING & THE DRIVE TO KEEP INNOVATING

- TOGETHER, WE **TRUST** ONE ANOTHER
- WE WORK WITH **INTEGRITY** TOGETHER
- TOGETHER, WE **COLLABORATE**
- WE **KEEP INNOVATING** TOGETHER

WHAT WE CAN OFFER

WE ARE A STRONG, RESILIENT COUNCIL THAT RESPECTS AND VALUES THE INDIVIDUALITY AND DIVERSITY THAT EVERY EMPLOYEE BRINGS TO THE ORGANISATION AND WE STRIVE TO CREATE A POSITIVE, OPEN AND INCLUSIVE WORKING ENVIRONMENT.

We can offer great opportunities to develop professionally and in this role, you will work alongside a nationally recognised Senior Leadership Team.

In addition, we offer a range of attractive benefits and working arrangements:

- Competitive Salary
- Membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme
- Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC) Scheme
- Car Mileage rates reimbursed
- Relocation Costs
- Employee Benefits Portal offering retail and leisure discounts
- Salary Sacrifice Car Lease Scheme
- Annual Leave Entitlement
- Ability to purchase additional annual leave
- Agile/Hybrid Working
- Flexible Working
- Discounted Go Active Gym Membership
- Cycle to Work Scheme
- Healthcare Cash Plans
- Employee Workplace Champions
- Mental Health First Aid
- Training and Career Development Opportunities



INTERESTED TO FIND OUT MORE?

WELL, YOU'VE READ A LITTLE BIT ABOUT US - NOW IT'S OVER TO YOU!

You can review our full job description details [here](#), and person specification information [here](#).

For an informal discussion about this role please contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Anthony Burns via his Executive PA Kayley Farmer at kayleyfarmer@sthelens.gov.uk

Closing date for receipt of applications is 12noon on **Thursday 30th January 2025**.

Technical Interviews will be held **17th & 18th February** via Microsoft Teams.

An assessment centre will be held on **Wednesday 26th February**, with final interviews on **Thursday 27th February**.

Unfortunately, due to the logistics involved, we are unable to offer flexibility in these dates and will expect candidates to be available for both dates.

All applications should be submitted before the closing date to Vikki Morris vikkimorris@sthelens.gov.uk in the form of a CV and Personal Statement highlighting your suitability and motivation for the role.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

St Helens Borough Council respects and values the individuality that every employee brings. We encourage applicants from diverse backgrounds, who share our values, our commitment to inclusion, and who will help us on our journey to transform our organisation. Further information about Equality & Diversity at St Helens Borough Council can be found [here](#).

St Helens Borough Council is a Disability Confident Employer. This means that the council guarantees an interview to disabled applicants who demonstrate that they meet the essential criteria for the job, as detailed on the Person Specification, and will, for qualifying disabled candidates, make reasonable adjustments within the interview/selection process.



for **with** you
you
every step of the way



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL