

# TAKING BACK OUR FUTURE

Labour

**STEVE  
ROTHERAM**

for Liverpool City Region Mayor

# MY RECORD



60,000

NEW JOBS ACROSS  
THE CITY REGION

£500M

INVESTED IN PUBLICLY-  
OWNED TRAINS

◀ 🚌 40 YEARS

OF FAILED BUS DEREGULATION REVERSED  
BY TAKING BACK CONTROL OF OUR BUSES

214KM

LCR CONNECT  
DIGITAL NETWORK

🧠 £54,000,000

ANNUAL INVESTMENT IN ADULT EDUCATION  
ACROSS THE CITY REGION

10,000

LOW INCOME HOMES  
RETROFITTED

2,000+

PEOPLE SUPPORTED  
BY HOUSING FIRST

£2.3M

INVESTED IN A RACE  
EQUALITY HUB

30,000

NEW HOMES BUILT  
FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

35,000

TRAINING COURSES  
FUNDED EACH YEAR

£1,600,000,000

🚌 🚲 🚆 SECURED TO FUND TRANSPORT  
PROJECTS OVER THE NEXT 4 YEARS

£70M

ACTIVE TRAVEL  
INFRASTRUCTURE

£26M

🚢 FOR A NEW  
MERSEY FERRY

30,000

NEW APPRENTICESHIPS  
ACROSS THE REGION

£105M

IMPROVING ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY IN HOMES

£60M

BROWNFIELD LAND  
FUND

£1.35M

COMMUNITY  
ENVIRONMENT FUND

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**TAKING BACK  
OUR FUTURE**



# **“I WANT TO MAKE THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION THE BEST PLACE TO GROW UP, GROW A FAMILY AND GROW A BUSINESS.”**

Serving as your Labour mayor for the past seven years has been the honour of a lifetime, especially as someone that genuinely believes there is nowhere better in the world to spend your time than in the Liverpool City Region - particularly on a sunny day.

When I left school in 1978, with few qualifications to my name, there was very little hope for working class kids like me.

I entered the world of work under a maniacal Tory Prime Minister who targeted our area for the most severe budget cuts.

The career advice I was given was to either join the army or find work on a building site. I was written off at the age of 16.

If that sounds like a familiar story, it is because, over the last 14 years, the Conservative Party has dragged the country back with one failed leader after another.

Entering politics was never my ambition, but I was drawn in by a desire to right injustice.

In 1990, I met Peter Kilfoyle, the then-Member of Parliament for Liverpool Walton when the roof of my son's nursery leaked so badly that there were more buckets than teachers.

He told me that only by becoming politically active could I change things. **Instead of complaining from the sidelines, I rolled up my sleeves and got stuck in.**

Tackling inequality, improving access to opportunity, and ensuring that we leave the next generation and the planet with a better inheritance than we received are at the core of my politics and my administration.

**I want to make the Liverpool City Region the best place to grow up, grow a family, and grow a business.**

I am proud of the progress we have made. We have shown the difference the Labour Party makes in power and helped to chart a path that will lead to Keir Starmer walking into Downing Street and our party back where it belongs: in government.



Since I was elected, we have created 60,000 new jobs, given 30,000 people practical skills through apprenticeships, funded training for more than 35,000 people annually, and built 30,000 homes for families to put down roots.

**But that is just the start.**

We were the first region in the country to declare a climate emergency.

Our local rail network is served by the country's first publicly-owned trains in a generation, and we have rolled back the ideological folly of the 1980s by taking back control of our buses.

The proud tradition of a *Ferry Cross the Mersey* lives on with a new boat being built right here on the banks of our mighty river.

And we put on a party the world will never forget at Eurovision.

Transformational projects have been delivered in every borough of the region, which would not have been possible without a mayor.

Few places have a keener sense of their own history than ours. But rather than living off the past, we are embracing the future.

Our local councils are all pulling in the same direction, shaping the next phase of our development.

**This manifesto is my promise to the people of the region.**

It clearly articulates a programme of innovation, investment and improvement that will set us up for success for years to come.

I will ensure that the next chapter in our illustrious history will not be written for us in Westminster or Whitehall but by us here in the Liverpool City Region.

**We are Taking Back Our Future.**

**Steve Rotheram**  
Labour Mayor of the Liverpool City Region

# THE BEST START IN LIFE

For too long, people in our area have been stopped from getting on in life, not because of a lack of talent but by a lack of opportunity - **I have made it my mission to put that right.**





## LIVERPOOL CITY REGION CHALLENGE

When I travel across our city region, I feel blessed to meet some of the best and brightest kids and some of the most committed teachers and parents in the country.

But a range of barriers, from deprivation and digital exclusion to poor transport and access to courses, have left our educational attainment levels lagging behind the national average at almost every key stage.

Working in tandem with our local authorities, I am determined to take meaningful action to put this right and **improve outcomes across the region, strengthen accountability, and drive up standards** in schools.

I will appoint Sir Paul Grant, an educational specialist, to design and develop the Liverpool City Region Challenge focusing on improving leadership across schools, making targeted

interventions in recruiting and retaining teachers and teaching assistants, and investing in improving facilities.

In the longer term, we will examine how we can help to enable the rapid adoption of new technologies and learning methods to improve outcomes, lobby the government for curriculum reform and make the case for greater funding of our schools.

## EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

**I will pilot cutting edge AI technology in local schools** to raise standards across the region and give local children access to opportunities usually enjoyed by elite private school students.

This will ensure that our young people have access to AI tutors, enabling more personalised, data-led interventions to help our children get the best start in life.



## A CHILDCARE GUARANTEE

Relentless Tory cuts and endless reforms have worsened outcomes, driven dedicated teachers away from the profession, and let our kids down.

We are setting the next generation up to fail. Too many kids turn up to school hungry, too many leave education unable to read or write, and too many lack the qualifications they need to get a job in their chosen field.

**Labour will break down the barriers to opportunity** and help to build the foundations for happy, healthy, fulfilling lives.

**We will ensure that all of our children have the chance to reach their full potential.**

The prohibitive cost of childcare means that parents face a choice between spending huge amounts of their income or staying at home, costing the country billions of pounds in economic output each year. The impact on women is particularly pronounced.

Meanwhile, when the country urgently needs to encourage more people into the sector, most nursery staff are considering quitting due to poor pay, conditions, and lack of training.



### I WILL WORK TO DELIVER A CHILDCARE GUARANTEE FOR THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION BY:

- ◊ **Launching a commission into childcare**, identifying a range of work to address the systemic challenges that prevent mums from returning to the workplace and stops dads from being able to access shared parental leave.
- ◊ **Taking steps to address the childcare crisis** through recruitment, retention and skills development.
- ◊ **Working with our local authorities, trade unions, and private providers** to drive up employment standards across the sector.
- ◊ **Developing a bridging qualification** to encourage workers interested in childcare to transition into the sector.
- ◊ **Incorporating parental leave provision** as one of the criteria for Ambassador Level of the Fair Employment Charter.
- ◊ **Leading by example** by ensuring flexible, shared parental leave is available to all Combined Authority staff.
- ◊ **Lobbying the government** to devolve further responsibility for the design and delivery of childcare provision to local areas.



## CRADLE TO CAREER

Cradle to Career is a pioneering approach to improving outcomes. **It is specifically targeted at places where kids are held back by their circumstances:** a postcode lottery where a child's future income, attainment, health and life chances are mapped out based on where they are born.

We have **worked with the community to identify the issues and empowered them to develop solutions**, bringing together residents, local service providers, professionals, and community leaders to target support for children and young people in some of our region's most deprived areas.

The results have been so impressive that I have already invested more than £5m to roll the scheme out in all parts of the region.

The pilot program in North Birkenhead delivered significant outcomes, including nearly **a year gained in reading age** above expectations, **a reduction in the number of cases referred to social services**, and a higher resolution rate for those cases.

### TO MAXIMISE ITS IMPACT I WILL:

- 📌 **Develop the LCR Way** - Cradle to Career is led by the communities it supports. I will bring together partners to empower areas to create their own vision, define priorities and work collectively to deliver the future they want - and deserve.
- 📌 **Build deeper partnerships** with our NHS, police and other public services, enabling communities to tackle an even broader set of priorities than the current scope of the programme.
- 📌 **Extend the programme** beyond the current three year cycle in the communities that are showing progress.
- 📌 **Work to identify the next wave of areas** to extend Cradle to Career, expanding from 18,000 to 36,000 children and young people supported each year in 12 communities by 2030.
- 📌 **Scale up the effective practice** Cradle to Career is demonstrating across the region.

## A CITY REGION OF LEARNING

I will develop a long term, whole place approach to lifelong learning that marries the existing excellence of our colleges and universities with flexible new approaches to addressing skills shortages.

### **I will:**

- ◊ **Explore the use of microcredentials** to support training across the city region.
- ◊ **Embed digital badging across all bootcamp programmes** to provide residents with a modular record of learning.
- ◊ **Integrate digital badges** within our award winning Be More platform.
- ◊ **Deliver faster, nimbler responses to industry skills needs** to support our health and life science Innovation Zone.
- ◊ **Introduce modular learning pathways**, better recognition of essential skills and improve connections between employers and colleges.

## EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

By scrapping the Education Maintenance Allowance, the Tory and Lib Dem coalition disadvantaged a generation of kids who wanted to access further education or training.

I will campaign for the national government to reintroduce the allowance to support working class kids in reaching their full potential.



## LCR SCREEN ACADEMY

Since being elected, **I have been working to establish our region as the Hollywood of the North.**

Liverpool is the most filmed city outside of London but it has often lost out on post-production opportunities due to a lack of industry specific facilities to keep projects in our region after the camera has stopped rolling.

I have invested in the redevelopment of the former Littlewoods building into a world class film and production site, funded the construction of successful studios nearby, and **launched a £3m LCR Film Fund** that has enabled the development of BAFTA-winning productions in our city region.

**But I want our people to take full advantage of these new opportunities** - whether in front or behind the camera, in production or in the myriad of jobs that make film and television happen.

**I will continue to work to develop a Liverpool City Region Screen Academy**, following the successful model of the London Screen Academy, ensuring that we produce a pipeline of local talent to help our burgeoning creative sector go from strength to strength.



## ADULT EDUCATION

Since 2017, **I have invested hundreds of millions of pounds in adult education.** I will continue to invest more than £50m annually to provide devolved skills programmes to more than 35,000 people each year.

## FULL DEVOLUTION OF 16-19 EDUCATION

I will campaign for the full devolution of powers over technical and academic education for 16-19 year olds.

## FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS

I will lobby for the power to **reintroduce Foundation Apprenticeships** to help close the gap between the classroom and the workplace,

giving them the industry experience and qualifications they need to hit the ground running.

## APPRENTICESHIP LEVY

Since its introduction in 2017, as much as £3 billion of Apprenticeship Levy funding that was meant to deliver apprenticeships has been left to gather dust in the government's coffers.

**That money could and should be spent by local people and shaped around the needs of our area.**

I will continue to lobby the government for the devolution of this funding to areas with Local Skills Improvement Plans and work with a future Labour government to devolve the new Growth and Skills Levy.



 Hugh Baird  
College

 Hugh Baird  
College

# TRULY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

A modern, successful region is only as good as its public transport network. For too long, we have been made to put up with a second class service. **I will build a London-style network that makes travel quicker, cheaper and more reliable.**





## TRANSPORT FOR THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

Seven years on from my election as our first mayor, it is time to recognise the progress we have made and mark the region's evolution as we continue to invest and thrive. **I will replace Merseytravel with a new body, Transport for the Liverpool City Region (TfLCR),** to recognise the city region's unity. TfLCR will:

**Use open data to ensure accurate and reliable live travel updates** across all public transport journeys.

**Deliver greater control over advertising** across the transport network to ensure it meets ethical standards and generates greater revenues to invest back into services.

**Introduce integrated, capped ticketing** across the whole network by 2028 - ensuring passengers always pay the cheapest possible fares.

**Introduce the *Ticket to Ride*,** a new all-in-one ticket aimed at tourists.

**Trial free travel for care leavers.**

**Launch Merseyrail in Bloom,** a programme working with local community groups to deliver improvements to the area around train stations - restoring pride as we restore public ownership.

**Rename Merseyrail lines and stations** to better reflect our unique local culture.



## MERSEYRAIL FOR ALL

- Take advantage of the opportunities provided by our battery-powered trains and **expand the local rail network**, taking Merseyrail beyond its current boundaries.
- Deliver **brand new stations at Woodchurch on the Wirral, Daresbury in Halton and Carr Mill in St Helens**, with work to develop all three underway by the end of the decade.
- Ensure that communities within our city region not currently served by the Merseyrail network take priority in any expansion — **servicing stations in places like Widnes and Rainford** — with longer term ambitions to expand services into Warrington, Wales, and Greater Manchester.
- Complete the new station** at Liverpool Baltic by 2027.
- Continue to operate **the most generous concessionary travel scheme in the country** for those over 60 - and work with the local authority to expand the scheme to Halton residents.



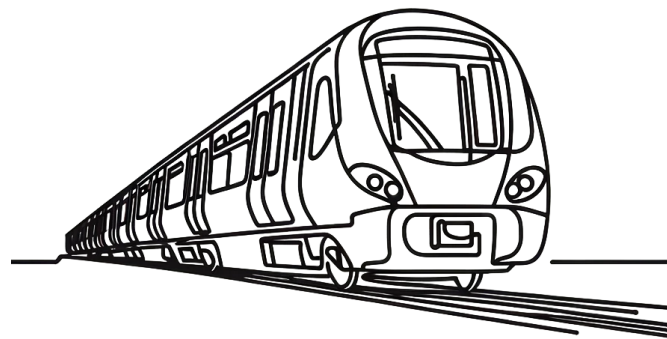
## BETTER BUSES

- Accelerate franchising to ensure publicly-controlled services operate in St Helens in 2026, with a **fully franchised network by the end of 2027**.
- Introduce express services throughout key routes of the city region by 2027.
- Implement a **24/7 service by the end of the decade**.
- Work with local authorities to **reintroduce bus lanes** and other bus priority measures that will help provide better, faster services.
- Introduce a **bus rapid transit scheme**, similar to the Belfast Glider, between Liverpool city centre and Liverpool John Lennon Airport, and to both Anfield and the new Bramley Moore Stadium by 2028.
- Accelerate investment in electric buses and **fully decarbonise our bus fleet by 2035**.
- Build on the success of £2 capped fares and MyTicket to **keep fares as low and affordable as possible**.
- Lobby to **end the ideological ban on establishing municipal bus companies** so that TfLCR can work towards setting up a not-for-profit operator.



## BETTER LOCAL RAIL

- ▶ Design a **new operating model for Merseyrail**, with increased public control to ensure that the public gets a better deal from the new concession.
- ▶ **Ensure Merseyrail is a seven day network** with increased timetable provision at weekends and evenings by 2028.
- ▶ Enhance accessibility by ensuring all rail platforms and stations are **fully accessible by 2030** to complement the sliding step technology on our new trains.
- ▶ Complete the rollout of digital ticketing on the Merseyrail network by the end of 2025 and **end the archaic refusal to accept digital tickets** from third party ticket sellers.
- ▶ **Regenerate Moorfields** and improve its entrances to ensure a better welcome to the city's business district.
- ▶ Draw up a **radical new commercialisation and station density strategy**, ensuring that our stations are not just stopping points but assets that generate an ongoing income for reinvestment.
- ▶ Ensure that Merseyrail is a 'bunk free' network, with an investment programme to install **ticket barriers at stations across the network**.



## NETWORK NORTH

For too long, regions across the North have been forced to contend with Victorian infrastructure that continues to hold our economy back.

If re-elected, I will partner with Greater Manchester to establish **a new publicly-operated railway** - the Liverpool and Manchester Railway - serving the North West of England.

I will ensure that a **half hourly train connecting Liverpool and Runcorn with London Euston** is delivered by the end of 2024.

I will also ensure that any future pan-Northern network linking Liverpool to Hull delivers the maximum possible benefit to our region.

## WIDER MOBILITY

🔗 Explore **pedestrianisation of high streets and town centres** to support local businesses and encourage public transport use.

🔗 Work with local councils to **tackle pavement parking**.

🔗 **Expand the e-scooter and e-bike pilot** to introduce schemes across the whole region.

🔗 Deliver a **wholly contactless transport system by 2028**, incorporating tunnels, buses, trains and ferries.

**I will only accept a development that:**

🔗 **Boosts freight capacity, cuts journey times and reduces potential disruption** to Lime Street.

🔗 Investigates the potential for a **new parkway station between Liverpool and Warrington**.

🔗 Provides transformative investment in Liverpool city centre, **maximising the capacity and potential of Lime Street and Central stations** and delivering a fitting welcome to a world class city region.

🔗 Support Merseyside Police's Vision Zero campaign to ensure there are **no avoidable collisions on the region's roads** by 2040.

🔗 **Build a new ferry on the banks of the Mersey**, at Cammell Laird in Birkenhead.

🔗 Invest a further **£50m in cycling and walking** across the city region by 2028.

🔗 Commission a **comprehensive review of Mersey Tunnel pricing** structures.

# A HOME OF YOUR OWN

Conservative inaction and underinvestment have left the UK with a devastating housing crisis. **Where national government has dithered, locally we have delivered.** Since I was elected we have built more than 30,000 homes, invested a further £60m developing brownfield sites, and retrofitted 10,000 houses.





## **BUILDING ON SOLID FOUNDATIONS**

Conservative inaction and rampant underinvestment have left the UK with a devastating housing crisis. As ever, it is ordinary people that are paying the price.

Rents have skyrocketed while home ownership has increasingly become the preserve of the rich.

**For too many ordinary people, the first step on the housing ladder has grown further and further out of reach.**

Since I was elected, we have seen more than **30,000 homes built in the region**, while I

have prioritised a brownfield first approach to development, **investing £60m in a Brownfield Land Fund** that has helped deliver much needed developments across the region while **protecting our precious green spaces.**

We have shown how **local action is the tonic to national inaction.**

Greater devolution would allow us to **turbocharge housebuilding** in the region, **including the return of council housing**, to ensure that more local families have a home to call their own.

## PUBLIC HOUSING PLAN

Working with our local authorities, I will deliver a Liverpool City Region council house building plan to help empower them to build their own stock.

At a city region level, we will look to establish a delivery arm to allow us to **provide publicly-owned housing at scale across the region.**

### **I will:**

- Utilise our Spatial Development Strategy to support local authorities in identifying sites for development, applying for funding, and **delivering a major programme of council homes.**
- Lobby government to **fix the legislative issues** that make council house building too difficult or complex for local authorities.
- Examine the potential to establish a housing revenue account or arm's length management organisation to **deliver council housing for the city region.**
- Ensure the Combined Authority **only funds developments that deliver at least 20% affordable housing.**



## STOP THE ROT

**Few places boast more historical architecture than the Liverpool City Region.** With the most Grade I and II listed buildings outside of London, our city and towns are awash with buildings, monuments and places that offer a glimpse into our region's rich heritage.

Yet decades of underfunding from national government and a lack of strategic, joined up thinking have meant that many of our hidden gems have been left to decay, their enormous potential wasted as they stand unused and unloved.

**I want to preserve, protect and enhance our architectural and cultural legacies for future generations.**

I will work with our local authorities, heritage groups, and local campaigners to identify and preserve historical buildings across our city region that are at risk of dereliction or loss.

I will examine how private investment can be secured to **restore buildings and bring them back into public use,** utilising international best practices such as the model adopted in Hamburg.



## HELPING THE HOMELESS

- ◊ Work with local authorities to **enhance support for those living in temporary accommodation.**
- ◊ **Lobby for the funding to continue our successful Housing First pilot**, which has seen more than 90% of service users sustain tenancies.
- ◊ Refresh local homelessness strategies to develop a city region programme to combat rough sleeping and homelessness, establishing **a cross-sector task force to tackle the crisis.**
- ◊ Work with local councils to **pilot new approaches to helping the homeless**, similar to the Milton Keynes model, which co-locates shelter services and multi-agency support.

## GOOD LANDLORD CHARTER

I will develop a Good Landlord Charter, building on the success of the Fair Employment Charter and Liverpool City Council's landlord licensing scheme.

**Covering both social housing and the private rented sector, the Charter will drive up the quality of renting in the region and put power back in the hands of renters.**

I will work with our councils, registered providers, and private landlords to accredit good practices and lobby for improvements to the housing sector.

As part of this work we will launch a **Rogue Landlord and Agent Checker** so that local residents can have confidence in their tenancy.



## LOW LEVEL LETTERBOX CAMPAIGN

I will support the CWU's campaign to legislate for the introduction of a **minimum letterbox height**.

At a local level, I will work with developers and housing associations to ensure that any future council housebuilding programmes are compliant.

## GREY BELT REGISTER

Building upon the success of my Brownfield Land Fund, I will work with local authorities to **develop a pipeline of grey belt land that could be redeveloped** for housing or community use and lobby for funding to enable remediation to ensure it is shovel ready for development.



## COMMUNITY RETROFIT PROGRAMME

Under my mayoralty, the Liverpool City Region has established itself as a national leader in housing retrofit, **investing more than £100m to retrofit more than 10,000 homes**, with a specific focus on the most vulnerable.

We have been able to support thousands of families from low income backgrounds to save money and keep their homes warm whilst building capacity among local companies and helping to develop a highly-skilled, local workforce.

However, we can and must go much further to tackle the climate emergency and improve living conditions. **I will lobby the government for a £500m Retrofit Fund over five years to tackle energy inefficiency in up to 50,000 homes in our city region.**

Instead of a piecemeal approach, I will introduce community-wide retrofitting schemes, targeted at areas with the most energy inefficient housing stock.



## IMPROVING DESIGN

Whether it is Port Sunlight on the Wirral, Lord Street in Southport, or the Three Graces on our iconic waterfront, the Liverpool City Region is home to some of the country's — and the world's — most picturesque and influential architecture.

Under my leadership, the Liverpool City Region became the first area outside of London to appoint a Design Champion to kickstart a conversation about its importance during the planning stages.

To guarantee that good design is at the heart of development, I will ensure a **Design Review Panel is embedded in the region's Investment Strategy before funding is granted** - and that all new stations and Combined Authority-backed developments are subject to the same scrutiny.

## REBOOTING REGENERATION

- Ensure that the **£31m investment I secured as chair of the Liverpool Strategic Futures Advisory Panel** delivers on its mission to kickstart redevelopment in the city.
- Represent the city and wider city region in conversations with government and investors to boost confidence in our area.

## SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Support the work of the city's new Locally-Led Urban Development Corporation to attract further sustainable investment into the city.
- Commit to embedding housing and retail development into major infrastructure builds.



# VIBRANT LOCAL COMMUNITIES

From the warmth of our people to the creativity and vibrancy we see in our communities, there is no place I would rather serve. **Our diversity is one of our greatest strengths, and we celebrate the right of our people to live safely, happily and in any way they choose.**





## **FAIRER AND SAFER COMMUNITIES**

I feel incredibly fortunate to represent the 1.6 million people who call the Liverpool City Region home.

**From the warmth of our people to the creativity and vibrancy we see in our communities, there is no place I would rather serve.**

**Our diversity is one of our greatest strengths, and we celebrate the right of our people to live safely, happily and in any way they choose.**

But some events over the past few years, both at home and around the world, have

shown that there is still a long way to go in our quest to keep our streets safe and our region the most welcoming place possible.

It is more important than ever for us to remember that despite some progress - we still have work to do. Safety is not just about policing; it is about creating environments where everyone can feel secure and flourish.

I promise to continue our work to promote inclusivity within the region and to work alongside our Police and Crime Commissioners to build **an area where everyone feels safe and proud in their community.**

## A HEALTHIER CITY REGION

Our city region has a proud history as a pioneer of public health, from the introduction of UK's first medical officer to the world-leading work of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

Deprivation, underfunding, the legacy of deindustrialisation, and COVID have contributed to our city region having some of the lowest healthy life expectancy in the country.

**Entrenched inequality is rife within our city region, with people in our poorest areas living up to 15 years less than those in the most affluent areas.**

We have to take action to drive up healthy life expectancy across our city region.

### I will:

- 📌 Campaign for further influence for local leaders on public health in the city region and for **Integrated Care Boards to be mapped to a city region footprint.**
- 📌 Support the development of new treatments that will **innovate and improve mental health interventions** at a brand new facility in Maghull Health Park.
- 📌 Work with the NHS, Directors of Public Health, and local authorities to **combat the underlying causes of early mortality in our city region** - focusing on cancer, cardiovascular disease, and respiratory disease.
- 📌 Work with the Terrence Higgins Trust to ensure that we sign up to the Paris Declaration and **become the first city region to end the HIV epidemic.**



## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

- 📌 **I will continue to work alongside Merseyside and Cheshire Police**, local authorities, and other partners to tackle the epidemic of violence against women.
- 📌 **I will lobby for specific funding** to address the root causes, as well as the consequences of gender-based violence.
- 📌 **I will continue to support the Safer Streets initiative** to address the scourge of sexual offences and unwanted sexual behaviour on public transport.
- 📌 As we begin to take back control of our bus network, **I will look at how extended operating hours on our transport network** will ensure women can travel across the city region with peace of mind.



## SUPPORTING OUR LGBT+ COMMUNITY

As mayor, I have worked closely with the LGBT+ community to champion equality, recognise its contribution to civic life in our city region, speak out against injustice - and fight prejudice. **I will continue to be a proud ally to the LGBT+ community.**

## TACKLING VIOLENT CRIME

I will continue to work with our Police and Crime Commissioners, local authorities, and strategic partners to tackle serious and violent crime.

We will campaign for **greater funding for local policing**, increased investment in early intervention and diversionary activities, and more support for the victims of crime.

## FIGHTING FOR A HILLSBOROUGH LAW IN FULL

I will continue to lobby the government to **implement a Hillsborough Law** to ensure that families bereaved through public tragedies do not face the same hardships as those affected by the events of 15 April 1989.

### **Our asks are simple:**

- ◊ A charter for families bereaved through public tragedy.
- ◊ A statutory duty of candour on all public servants.
- ◊ A public advocate to act for families.
- ◊ An end to near limitless legal spending by public bodies, which tilts the scales of justice.



## IMPROVING DIVERSITY AND REPRESENTATION IN POLITICS

Throughout my time as mayor, the lack of diversity in local government has meant that, for the majority of the time, the Combined Authority's leadership has been made up of seven white, middle aged men – not representative of the communities we serve.

Although the number of women elected as councillors across England has increased during this time, only 17% of local authority leaders are women.

Whilst I cannot constitutionally choose my own cabinet, **I have commissioned work to address representation in politics across the city region** and ensure that we do more to deliver diversity at all levels that better reflect the communities we represent.

### I will:

- ◉ **Implement the findings** of this commission in full.
- ◉ Introduce a **mentoring scheme for women and underrepresented groups** who are interested in standing for leadership positions.
- ◉ Review Combined Authority practices to ensure its **meetings are accessible** to elected representatives with caring or employment responsibilities.



## SUPPORTING BLACK, ASIAN & MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

During my second term, I have invested record levels in tackling racial inequality across our city region and have sought to support the diverse communities of our city region to reach their full potential.

### I will:

- ◉ **Continue to support the work of our Race Equality Hub** in generating opportunities for Black, Asian, and minority ethnic businesses to thrive, creating sustainable employment opportunities.
- ◉ **Deliver targeted support** to develop Black, Asian, and minority ethnic leaders.
- ◉ Ensure that the Combined Authority takes action to **improve the diversity of its workforce** - especially in senior leadership roles.
- ◉ Meet the targets for **increased numbers of Black, Asian and minority-led business startups**.



# LEADING THE RACE TO NET ZERO

While trains, docks, and canals made our area a leader in the first industrial revolution, **our natural assets in wind, tidal, and hydrogen have established us as Britain's Renewable Energy Coast.** We have to take advantage of that position to help lead the fight to save the planet.





## A GREENER, CLEANER FUTURE

Climate change poses an existential threat to the planet. It is a global challenge like nothing we have faced before, and it will require an enormous collective effort to address.

But we all have to play our part.

**Under my leadership, our region was the first in the country to declare a climate emergency.**

We have set much more ambitious decarbonisation targets than national government - with none of the backsliding we have seen from Rishi Sunak and the Conservatives.

**I have always believed that in every challenge lies opportunity.**

Where trains, docks, and canals made our area a leader in the first industrial revolution, I believe that our natural assets and strengths in wind, tidal, and hydrogen have established us as **Britain's Renewable Energy Coast.**

We have the potential to create thousands of highly skilled, well paid jobs and training opportunities for local people in key industries of the future.



## NET ZERO 2035

We have made good progress in decarbonising the region, but the impact of climate change is already being felt in our communities and it is essential we redouble our efforts to reach net zero.

We will revise our ambitions and work to ensure that the region is **carbon neutral by 2035 - the most ambitious target in the country.**

### I will:

- **Ensure that net zero targets underpin all Combined Authority policies** and strategies from housing and transport to investment and innovation.
- **Triple the volume** of energy generated by offshore wind by 2032.
- Invest **up to £10m in zero carbon refuelling stations** by the end of the term.
- **Support the decarbonisation of energy intensive industries** through world-leading projects such as HyNet and Glass Futures.
- Develop a Green Jobs and Skills plan to ensure that we can **upskill 65,000 workers by 2035** and deliver the 55,000 new jobs in green industries that will be required by 2040.
- Continue efforts to **improve energy efficiency** in the 61% of homes in the city region that are currently EPC Band D or below - focusing on retrofitting homes and reducing reliance on gas in the domestic energy supply.



## DISCHARGE FREE MERSEY

Within my first 100 days, I will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with United Utilities to deliver a discharge free Mersey by 2030 and develop a water management plan for the city region.

I will lobby government to:

- **Support long term investments** to protect and improve waterways.
- **Improve organisational preparedness**, evidence gathering, information and awareness campaigns.
- **Protect communities** vulnerable to climate impacts, especially those at risk of flooding.
- **Carry out essential maintenance** of installations and infrastructure to be better prepared to withstand future risks.
- **Devolve regulatory powers** to allow us to penalise those who pollute our waterways and reinvest funds into delivering our discharge free ambitions.



## MERSEY TIDAL POWER

A project to harness the power of the River Mersey has been discussed for decades but, throughout my time as mayor, the region has taken tangible steps toward making it a genuine, investible possibility.

**Mersey Tidal Power is the biggest publicly-led renewable project in the UK, and the largest tidal power scheme in the world.**

It has the potential to deliver thousands of new jobs, and power up to one million homes with clean, predictable energy for 120 years.

**I want to continue to that good work and will:**

- ◊ Ensure that Mersey Tidal Power plays a **leading role in the delivery of Great British Energy.**
- ◊ Develop the **full business case so that the project is shovel ready by 2028.**

- ◊ Explore the potential for the barrage to include an **active travel link from Liverpool to Wirral.**
- ◊ Lobby the government to contribute towards the funding to take the project to the pre-construction phase.
- ◊ Work with global investors to explore investment to support a tidal scheme across the River Mersey.
- ◊ Develop strategies to build a **local supply chain, manufacturing base and skills pipeline.**
- ◊ Ensure any project **balances potential environmental impact with long term climate risks.**
- ◊ Ensure the Combined Authority **maintains a public ownership stake on behalf of residents** to safeguard the project and ensure the benefits are felt locally.





## NEW URBAN PARKS

Urban parks are essential tools to tackle air pollution, promote biodiversity and improve social cohesion.

Our region was home to the first urban park for public use - Birkenhead Park, the inspiration for New York's Central Park.

I will build upon this heritage by creating new green spaces in urban areas, working with our local leaders and communities to identify suitable plots, support decontamination and remediation, and improve the public realm to **deliver six new urban parks by the end of the decade.**

## PLANT 100,000 NEW TREES

Trees play an invaluable role in combating climate change, improving air quality, reducing the risk of flooding in coastal communities, and improving our neighbourhoods.

◊ By the end of this decade, we will plant **at least 100,000 new trees.**

◊ I will embed a requirement for tree planting as part of any developments we fund and invest in tree planting across the Combined Authority estate.



## IMPROVING AIR QUALITY

Almost 40,000 people die from air pollution exposure every year in the UK, while long term exposure to poor air causes serious health conditions, reduces life expectancy and entrenches inequality.

### **I will:**

- ◊ Explore the use of **digital innovation to improve data on air pollution** across the city region to inform interventions, public warning systems and control traffic flows.
- ◊ Ensure our air pollution ambitions align with World Health Organisation air quality guidelines.
- ◊ **Expand the adoption of school streets**, building on the pilots launched in Sefton, to tackle air pollution and improve children's safety on the walk to school.
- ◊ Work alongside our local authorities to **reprioritise road space for public transport and active travel**.
- ◊ Ensure that the Liverpool City Region Air Quality Task Force continues to examine air quality through the prism of inequality.
- ◊ Support the aims and objectives of the Trade Union Clean Air Network Charter.
- ◊ Work to secure funding to **install air quality sensors at critical locations** to monitor progress.



# THE UK'S CULTURAL CAPITAL

**As Eurovision showed, nowhere puts on a party quite like the Liverpool City Region.** I will continue to invest in culture and our visitor economy, helping to ensure that we remain a major events capital.



# Mersey Ma

National Lottery players have supported 3,600 local music and cultural projects\*



\*Based on figures from 1992-2022



## THE UK'S MAJOR EVENT CAPITAL

Among non-capital cities, Liverpool ranks in the top 10 globally despite being outside the top 100 by population.

At the same time, the **city region's visitor economy is worth more than £5bn a year** - passing its pre-pandemic high. As mayor, I will ensure it continues to go from strength to strength.

**As Eurovision showed, nowhere puts on major events quite like us.**

With world leading spectacles like The Open in 2026 and Euro 2028 and regular events, such as the Grand National, we can cement ourselves as the UK's major event capital.

### **I will:**

- 🕒 **Appoint a respected national figure to lead the Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP).**
- 🕒 **Work alongside our LVEP to create a regional investment strategy for culture.**
- 🕒 **Develop a major events strategy to ensure the city region continues its success in bidding for and hosting major events.**
- 🕒 **Work with national and international bodies to ensure the **Liverpool City Region remains a destination for major events.****
- 🕒 **Work to attract even more conferences and events into the city region.**

## DOUBLING CULTURE SPENDING

Since 2017, I have protected 1% of the Combined Authority's budget to support cultural initiatives across the city region. We have demonstrated that cultural investment has a multiplier effect.

### I will:

- ◊ Double the amount of ringfenced culture spending to 2%.
- ◊ Commit to working with National Museums Liverpool and other cultural organisations within the city region to **channel funding towards enabling our young people to access local cultural attractions.**

## BOROUGH OF CULTURE

Our Borough of Culture programme has spotlighted the cultural opportunities within each of our local authority areas.

I want to **build upon this programme** and ensure that each Borough of Culture year has a permanent legacy.

I will continue working with Sir Phil Redmond to refocus Borough of Culture and explore opportunities to secure a commercial sponsor for the programme to expand its reach.





## FORGING A CITY REGION IDENTITY

As we approach a decade since our devolution deal was first signed, there is so much for our city region to reflect upon and be proud of.

However, there is still work to be done to forge a true city region identity - drawing upon our six boroughs' unique strengths and characteristics.

### **I will:**

- ◊ **Commission work to develop a city region crest and flag**, like those that are central to the collective identities found in international city states.
- ◊ Establish a new honour, the **Freedom of the Liverpool City Region**, recognising the contribution of individuals and organisations across the city region to public life.
- ◊ Support campaigns to **honour the contribution of women, Black, Asian and minority ethnic people**, and those from other marginalised groups to our city region - starting with the campaign to install a statue of Mary Seacole at St George's Hall.

## SAFEGUARDING THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

The twin shocks of the pandemic and the Tory cost of living crisis hit businesses in the night time economy particularly severely. Through our £150m COVID support package, we protected many companies that would otherwise have gone bust.

**I will appoint a Night Time Commissioner to work alongside our LVEP** and local businesses to protect and grow our night time economy, and ensure the sector has a strong voice at both regional and national levels.



SHAKESPEARE NORTH

PI PASSAGE

BRITISH STYLISH  
LIFE IN MANCHESTER

Photo credit: Beccy Lane Positive Image Photography

# A STRONGER, FAIRER ECONOMY

My vision is for a local economy that is not only resilient but also fair and inclusive. **It is not just about growth for growth's sake; it is about good, purpose-driven growth that benefits everyone.**







## **BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT**

Thriving local businesses, from bustling startups in the Baltic Triangle to the manufacturing giants along the Mersey, are the heartbeat of our economy.

**For our region and its people to flourish, we need to put them in the best possible position to succeed.**

Our brand is globally significant and gives us an enormous advantage when doing business.

We have made enormous progress to date - ours was the fastest growing city region in the country before the pandemic set us back.

**But, for too long, we have punched below our weight.**

My vision is for a local economy that is not only resilient but also fair and inclusive.

**It is not just about growth for growth's sake; it is about good, purpose-driven growth that benefits everyone.**

This means investing in the sectors that are key to our future and nurturing a business community that does not just contribute to the region's financial economy, but also plays a vital role in its social one too, helping to build a greener, more equitable future for our residents.

## GOOD JOBS AND CONDITIONS

When thousands of hardworking families across our region are struggling to make ends meet, there has never been a more important time for businesses to step up and commit to investing in their workforce.

**Being properly paid for the work you do in decent, safe conditions should be the absolute minimum any of us expects when we go to work.**

Through my Fair Employment Charter, I am ensuring that our region is leading the country in standing up for workers' rights.

### **I will:**

- **Build on my record of taking back control of public services** by promoting public ownership and insourcing of workers.
- Advocate for **progressive procurement** across our supply chains.
- Continue to **promote better working standards through my Fair Employment Charter.**
- Promote more **inclusive and democratic ownership of local economies**, including support for cooperatives and municipal enterprise.
- **Support the TUC New Deal for Workers** and lobby the government to implement it in full.
- Campaign against unfair working practices such as fire and rehire and commit to **not using companies that use fire and rehire** tactics for any Combined Authority contracts.



## BOOSTING JOBS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Major events such as Eurovision and The Open have shown that we are a region comfortable in the glare of the global spotlight. Whilst we are rightly proud of our cultural offer, **I want to diversify this so that our region not only has a world class visitor offer but also a world class investment offer to boot.**

We are one of the fastest growing, entrepreneurial city regions in the country: one in five new businesses in the North West are started in the Liverpool City Region. But our business survival rate remains too low, and productivity still lags behind the national average.

### TO ADDRESS THAT, I WILL:

- Increase foreign direct investment (FDI) into the city region by 25% by the end of the decade and ensure that we are back amongst the top 10 areas for FDI by 2028.
- Launch a **Business Relocation Taskforce** to promote the Liverpool City Region as a place to set up and scale up a business to a national and international audience.
- Learn the lessons from London, Manchester and Edinburgh and improve the support provided to ensure our city region becomes a **first choice location for businesses** from SMEs to blue chip companies.
- Establish a business scale-up vehicle to unlock the potential of new and growing businesses in the city region. It will support more than 100 businesses by 2026 with the ultimate aspiration of **developing an LCR unicorn** in the next decade.
- Create **13,000 high quality jobs** and attract 100 new businesses through the LCR Freeport.
- Continue to lead mayoral trade and investment delegations worldwide as part of an **ambitious international strategy**, which puts our city region at the forefront of digital and green technology, focused on the USA, Germany and East Asia.
- Convene a quarterly mayoral Business Forum to **ensure the voices of local businesses are heard** across our city region.
- Continue to **recognise the vital work of the Community and Voluntary Sectors** and support them in delivering the objectives of their State of the Sector report.
- I will leverage the power of our brand to deliver **new partnerships and investments across the whole city region.**

## INNOVATION

As your mayor, I have ensured that we are investing at least 5% of our GVA in R&D annually - more than double the government's target.

**I launched a first of its kind catalogue of projects that could add an estimated £42bn to the city region's economy, create 44,000 jobs and boost productivity by as much as 10%.**

We are lucky to play host to world-leading clusters in life science research, materials chemistry, advanced computing and digital innovation, which support thousands of jobs and training opportunities.

The health and life sciences sector alone contributes £290m to our region's economy every year.

### **I will:**

➤ Work with our universities, businesses and Knowledge Quarter Liverpool to ensure the Liverpool City Region's Innovation Zone reaches its full potential, unlocking **£320m of investment and delivering up to 4,000 jobs** across the city region in the next five years.

➤ Use the **Innovation Zone as the foundation to strengthen our health and life sciences ecosystem** that better connects our NHS, specialist trusts, national and global players and academia with bespoke support for spinouts, start-ups and scaling up business ideas.

➤ Invest in **rapidly increasing laboratory capacity** to capitalise on local strengths and address national shortages.

➤ Support plans for the **creation of a Materials Innovation Supercluster** and an academic health sciences campus to advance our region's world-leading research and development capabilities.



# EMBRACING THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

As mayor, I am determined that our region not only tries to keep up with digital advances but takes advantage of them and leads the way to help **establish ourselves as an entrepreneurial state.**





## DIGITAL

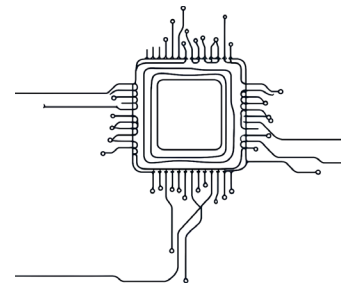
**Advances in Artificial Intelligence, quantum computing, robotics, and virtual reality are changing the way we see the world and impacting how we interact with each other and with public services.**

Traditionally, technological developments have left public sector bodies behind.

As mayor, I am determined that our region not only tries to keep up with digital advances but also takes advantage of them to establish ourselves as an entrepreneurial state.

I want to use our existing assets and deliver new ones to help **position our region as a leader in these emerging technologies**, improving our citizens' quality of life, growing our economy, and improving access to opportunity.

While the pandemic helped to accelerate the move to a digital first world, I will ensure that, as we embrace our digital future, nobody is left behind or excluded by the pace of change with a firm commitment to tackling digital exclusion.





## LEADING THE WAY

Across the Liverpool City Region, we have a range of digital assets that can put us at the forefront of the digital revolution.

**I will harness our capability to deliver good jobs, growth and opportunity by:**

🕒 **Appointing a Chief Digital Officer** and establishing a Data Advisory Board to build upon the work of our Civic Data Co-operative to help coordinate the collection, sharing and use of data for public benefit across the Liverpool City Region.

🕒 Expanding our digital inclusion training programme to **support 10,000 residents to improve their digital skills** by 2030.

🕒 **Exploring the use of digital twins** to aid development and improve planning, particularly in transport.

🕒 Providing our burgeoning digital and creative sector with the **investment and training support** required to encourage the next generation of gamers, coders, and programmers.



## USING AI FOR GOOD

🕒 The boom in new Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered technology brings a myriad of challenges but also offers massive opportunities. **I will ensure that we harness the potential of AI for good**, with appropriate safeguards in place, to deliver better services, start new businesses and position the region as a leader in its implementation.

🕒 **I will establish an AI task force** — chaired by the Chief Digital Officer — to set safe parameters for its use, understand the potential benefits of AI to Liverpool City Region, use AI in the development and delivery of all Combined Authority policies, revolutionise public services across the city region, and use our digital assets to be a leader in responsible AI.

🕒 I will also work alongside our trade unions to ensure that the Liverpool City Region leads the country in **ensuring the AI revolution is fair and just**. This technology can improve people's quality of life and support them in their jobs rather than forcing them out. I want to ensure that the boom in AI will not lead to a boom in redundancies and erosion of workers' rights.

🕒 We will **produce a model of best practice** that can be replicated nationwide, with a published report showcasing how our region can develop AI and its guardrails.



## LCR CONNECT

When first elected, I took inspiration from the story of Chattanooga, Tennessee - a city that reversed decades of post-industrial decline to become America's fastest growing city.

They achieved that status by investing in digital infrastructure. This allowed Chattanooga to establish itself as an unlikely alternative to New York City and Silicon Valley for tech companies and start-ups.

The Liverpool City Region is home to a wealth of digital assets from Sci-Tech Daresbury to the transatlantic fibre optic cables that come ashore in Southport. Until I was elected, there was no strategy or vision to join these unique assets.

In 2018, I launched **LCR Connect, a £30m joint venture to build a 214km broadband network across the region** offering local businesses access to the fastest internet speeds in the country.

More than 350 businesses are already reaping the benefits.

### **Building on this success, I will:**

- ❖ Sign up **3,000 businesses and organisations to LCR Connect** by the end of the decade.
- ❖ Continue to **engage with global tech giants** to encourage them to invest in the Liverpool City Region.
- ❖ Explore how we can **encourage more start-ups in the city region to access the benefits of LCR Connect.**
- ❖ Ensure the Combined Authority **retains a public ownership stake** in LCR Connect.



# OPEN, ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP

With trust in politicians and our institutions at an all time low, it is vital that we work to rebuild faith. **For democracy to flourish, it is important to ensure that citizens do not feel remote from decision makers.**





## TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT

**With trust in politicians and our institutions at an all time low, it is vital that we work to rebuild faith.** Openness, transparency, and accountability are central to doing that.

Devolution has given us the chance to demonstrate that there is a better way of doing things — **an alternative to the Punch and Judy politics we see in Westminster.**

Local decision making, led by local people who look and sound like the people they represent, in partnership with local communities, has the potential to transform not only the physical landscape of a place but the civic landscape too.

## TOUR DE LCR

For democracy to flourish, it is vitally important that citizens do not feel remote from decision makers.

To properly understand the impact of decisions, politicians must understand the place those decisions impact and the people who live there.

**To some people in our region, Liverpool city centre can feel as distant as Westminster.**

To help address this perception, I will rotate Combined Authority meetings across each borough, taking democracy and decision making out into communities.

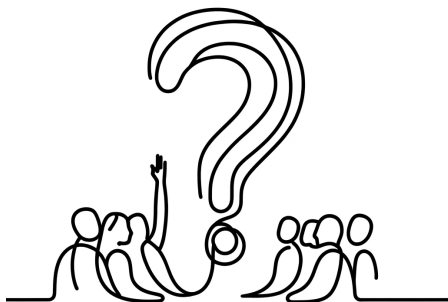
## ACCESSIBLE, ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP

I am proud of my record as an approachable and accountable mayor and have consistently offered myself up for scrutiny.

### I will:

- ◉ **Appear before each council** in the region once a year to provide an update on the work I am doing to deliver for their area.
- ◉ Hold **quarterly public question time events** across the city region so that residents can scrutinise me directly.
- ◉ Continue to **attend Overview and Scrutiny meetings** where elected officials are able to hold me to account.

## OPEN DATA



Good data is vital for policymaking, democracy, and the prosperity of society as a whole.

Building on the values of our Civic Data Co-operative, I will ensure that the Combined Authority **maximises the use of open data** to help improve choice, accessibility, and the quality of service delivery.



## PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM

As the world moves further and faster into the digital age, public sector bodies are struggling to keep pace. We need to work smarter and harder.

### I will:

- ◉ **Establish the Office for Public Service Innovation**, a first of its kind project that will use best in class data and an evidence platform to support local service delivery and decision making.
- ◉ Launch a taskforce to explore how we can effectively **utilise AI to improve services** across the city region. This will not just be a talking shop - its recommendations will be implemented during the forthcoming term.
- ◉ Work with local authorities to see how we can share services to deliver better outcomes and **value for money for local residents**.
- ◉ Work with councils to lobby the government to **take action to address the crisis in social care** and explore what can be done locally to address the funding and staffing gaps that are exacerbating the problem.

# TAKING BACK OUR FUTURE

As mayor, I have always taken a devolution by default approach because local people should have more influence over the decisions that affect our lives. **The fortunes of people and services in the Liverpool City Region should not be reliant upon a favourable government in Westminster.**







## DEVOLUTION

As mayor, I have always taken a devolution by default approach because local people should have more influence over the decisions that affect our lives.

**Since we signed our first devolution deal, I have wrestled further power from Westminster and Whitehall** over housing, adult skills, transport and net zero and have begun to take back control of local rail infrastructure.

But I want to go further. I have always believed that **the fortunes of people and services**

**in the Liverpool City Region should not be reliant upon a favourable government** or wasting time competing in beauty contests to secure vital funding.

We deserve the same powers secured in trailblazer deals, but we should set our sights higher than that. **We should be looking for powers on the same level as the devolved nations.**



## FUNDING

Fourteen years of punishing central government austerity has meant our communities have been asked to do more with less, and public services and infrastructure have been stretched to breaking point.

Across the North of England, our towns and cities have been hit hardest, and poorer communities have borne the brunt of the Conservatives and Lib Dems' cuts - leaving us less resilient to the challenges of COVID and the cost of living crisis.

### I will prioritise securing:

- ◊ **A single, flexible department-style funding settlement** which takes social deprivation into account and is linked to inflation.
- ◊ **Fair, needs based funding for local authorities** to ensure residents have access to the services they rely upon.

My ultimate aspiration is for a **Barnett formula-style settlement** for the Liverpool City Region, like those enjoyed by the devolved nations of the UK.

Addressing regional inequality requires redistribution of political power and financial levers too.

To shape our own destiny, we need to break free of our dependency on the government to fund any and every project, policy, or programme in our city region.

### I will campaign to:

- ◊ Introduce a **Tourist Tax** to support communities when hosting major events.
- ◊ Introduce an **Infrastructure Levy** on businesses that stand to benefit from significant public investment in transport or housing projects in the city region.
- ◊ Use **Stamp Duty receipts** to fund a programme of affordable housebuilding in the city region.
- ◊ Leverage **additional levies** similar to those in Scotland and Wales to combat public health challenges.
- ◊ Harness the potential of **Land Value Capture**.





## LONDON-STYLE TRANSPORT

Since I was elected in 2017, I have secured billions of pounds worth of funding for local transport projects in our city region – but this is still just a fraction of the funding that has been made available to Transport for London during this period.

**Good public transport is not just about getting people from A to B but about connecting people with each other and with opportunity.**

### **I will fight to:**

- ❖ **Secure a consolidated, devolved and long term transport funding pot** for the Liverpool City Region.
- ❖ **Take back control of the local rail network** through our Memorandum of Understanding with the government to devolve local rail infrastructure.
- ❖ **Establish a new public operator**, the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, to serve the North West of England.
- ❖ **End the ideological ban on establishing municipal bus companies** so the TfLCR can work towards setting up its own not-for-profit operator.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Despite the dedication of our teachers and parents, our education system has let down too many students and prevented generations of people in the Liverpool City Region from reaching their full potential.

Fourteen years of a Conservative government has seen our schools and colleges underfunded, technical education deprioritised and many of our young people leaving school without the skills they need to thrive.

To address this, we need greater local control over our education system to empower our young people to expand their minds and aspirations.

**I will call for:**

- ◊ **Trailblazer-level powers** over skills and technical education.
- ◊ **Full devolution** of 16-19 education.
- ◊ Power to reintroduce **Foundation Apprenticeships** locally.
- ◊ **Local control of the Apprenticeship Levy.**

**HOUSING AND REGENERATION:**

As with education and skills, as a minimum, we want the powers devolved to other regions within their trailblazer deals to shape our housing and regeneration programmes in the Liverpool City Region.

**This would include:**

- ◊ **Full devolution** of the Affordable Homes Programme and the Brownfield, Infrastructure and Land Fund.
- ◊ Devolution of **net zero funding**, including retrofit schemes.
- ◊ Control of **housing funding and powers** currently controlled by Homes England.



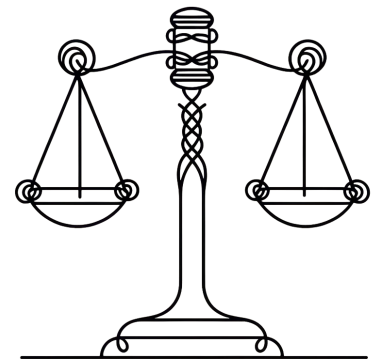


## STRONGER REGULATORY INFLUENCE

I want to ensure **greater local accountability** over the issues that matter most to the 1.6 million people who call our city region home.

I will ensure stronger regulatory influence is a key part of future devolution deals.

Whether making sure the Department for Education is answerable to local people for the outcomes in our city region's schools or securing powers to penalise those who pollute our waterways, I am determined to **give local people more power and influence** over the services that matter.





# STEVE ROTHERAM

for Liverpool City Region Mayor



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