



## COMMUNITY



## Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

### Knowsley Council Plan (2025-2030): Supporting Knowsley Residents to Thrive

**The Knowsley Council Plan for 2025-2030 clearly sets out the Council's role in supporting residents to thrive and helping people overcome inequality.**

Despite significant economic challenges, including funding cuts and rising service demands, the Council has maintained financial stability through robust financial management processes and effective forward planning. By successfully balancing its budget for the last five consecutive years, the Council has not only maintained essential services but also positioned itself to achieve the ambitions set out in the new Council Plan.

In shaping its new plan, the Council builds on some of the achievements and successes of recent years – for example, reversing decades of population decline and delivering 4,000 new homes and 10,000 new jobs in just five years. Transformational regeneration projects in Kirkby and Prescot have revitalised key areas, and well-developed plans are progressing to bring further improvements to Halewood and Huyton. Whilst these achievements provide a strong foundation (and there remains a continued ambition and need for growth), the Council acknowledges that economic progress alone is not enough. Targeted support to residents has been delivered over the last few years including:-

- Allocating over £5m to the Knowsley Better Together Hardship Support Fund;
- Supporting almost 18,500 people into work through Knowsley Works; and,
- Investing in the Community and Voluntary Sector to provide support aligned to local need via an annual £0.250m Communities Fund and other grant programmes.



Despite this, longstanding inequalities persist within the borough and the Council recognises that there is more to be done to narrow the gap in life chances. The new Council Plan, developed with partners and building on Knowsley Better Together principles (more can be achieved by working together), supports those who need it most to ensure they can live their best life. The three priorities, which will underpin work over the next five years, are:-

- Delivering effective, high-quality services and support for residents, by getting the basics right, transforming services and improving organisational resilience;
- Encouraging growth that benefits everyone, by building an inclusive economy, encouraging Place Leadership and meeting the needs of a changing population; and,
- Delivering targeted support to encourage fairness and opportunity for all, by prioritising early intervention and prevention, building stronger communities and tackling inequalities.

The Council will work with individuals, families and communities to prevent issues from arising in the first place, making sure the Council and others take the time to really understand local communities and support them to identify their own solutions to problems. The plan also places a significant emphasis on inclusive growth to ensure everyone can benefit as the borough continues to develop.

Each priority is supported by a delivery plan with measurable outcomes, which will enhance accountability and effectively measure progress, with clear milestones set for the first year of implementation. Actions identified as key to supporting delivery of the vision include (but are not limited to): -

- Delivery of the improvement plan for Children's Social Care;
- Improving the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities offer;
- Delivery of the Net Zero Delivery Plan;
- Delivery of Public Health programmes aimed at improving health;
- Improving Knowsley's Youth Offer;
- Increased focus on Early Intervention and Prevention in Adult Social Care; and,
- Development of a Community Engagement Model (Asset Based Community Development).

To drive progress on these actions, the Council investing in key areas, including:-

- £5.6m to improve stability in the adult's social care market - including agreeing to fund the Real Living Wage for care workers;
- £5m to meet growing demand in adult and children's services;
- £4m to support the Children's Services Improvement programme and to support prevention initiatives;
- £1m to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse;
- £500,000 to continue the cultural programme and boost town centres; and,
- £400,000 to support people into employment and provide careers advice in schools.

Working with the Knowsley Better Together Partnership, the Council will use this investment to ensure that the barriers facing local communities are addressed in a sustainable way which responds to peoples' specific needs. By working alongside residents, businesses and others to co-design the support that is offered, the Council and its partners are committed to creating a lasting impact within local communities. This approach has, for many years, enabled the Council to offer an extended model of bespoke and targeted support to local communities and this work will be built upon using quality insight gained through extensive consultation in the development of "The Knowsley Offer" – a co-produced directory based on local needs of information, services, advice, facilities and more accessible in one place.

The new Council Plan, with priorities that are aligned to local need, and a targeted investment programme demonstrates that the people of Knowsley are at the heart of everything the Council does. The Council is optimistic that it can achieve its core vision to support Knowsley residents to thrive, with no one left behind.

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