## Getting Better all the time

With the number of businesses up by 40%, 4,000 more jobs and a revitalised town centre, St.Helens is renewing its plans for vibrant future investment.

ust five years in, St.Helens has revised its original City Growth Strategy (CGS) as the majority of the 70 projects included have already been implemented or are well on their way to being delivered. Moreover, seven projects from the revised CGS were already completed in 2008.

The 2008-2018 Strategy retains the original CGS vision for a revitalised St.Helens as a "vibrant modern place for enterprise and a regional location of choice," plus its four main transformational themes:

- Growing and strengthening the business base
- Raising aspirations
- Improving the physical environment
- Raising the borough's profile and image.

The Mere Grange Business Park represents £8m of investment for St.Helens What has changed radically are the Action Areas within each theme, plus the actual projects themselves: of the 90 identified projects in the revised CGS (worth £1.86bn), 60 are brand new while 30 are continuations or extensions of original schemes. Collectively these will consolidate and build on recent successes, while also seeking to deliver new economic growth.

Cllr. Brian Spencer, Leader of St.Helens Council said: "The fact that we have revised the original 10-year CGS after only five years is a reflection of our highly successful approach to regeneration in terms of our firm focus on delivery and working in close partnership, particularly with the private sector." Did you know?

With its maximum four-star Audit Commission rating, St.Helens Council is officially one of the top Local Authorities in the country.