## Connectivity Catchatchate and Cost

St.Helens is building a reputation as one of the most attractive potential business locations in the country thanks to its "three Cs" – connectivity, catchment and cost.

idway between Liverpool and Manchester, with excellent motorway links and within 45 minutes of the region's airports, St.Helens sits in the centre of a multi-billion pound economy in the heart of the Northwest.

St.Helens has been independently highlighted as one of the most attractive potential office locations in the country<sup>1</sup>. This status is thanks to its prime regional connectivity, a catchment of seven million residents, clients and customers, plus a highly cost-effective business-friendly environment. In terms of business start-up growth rates, St.Helens is recognised as one of the top 11 performing districts in the UK<sup>2</sup> (joint 1st in the Northwest) and has also been highlighted as the 14th "happiest place in the country"<sup>3</sup> (2nd in the Northwest). Adding to its appeal, St.Helens recently unveiled its revised City Growth Strategy – the business plan for the growth of "St.Helens plc" – covering 90 projects with a collective value of more than £1.8bn, of which £1.12bn funding has already been secured.

## Cost

Commercial rent rates remain very competitive compared to neighbouring regions, enhancing the borough's attractiveness to inward investors, existing businesses and developers alike. St.Helens offers a good choice of quality office and business accommodation, supported by a proactive Investment and Aftercare Team, a top-rated council by the Audit Commission and officially the best Chamber of Commerce in the country<sup>4</sup>.