

THE GREEN BLUE.



Thames Estuary Growth Board
Action Plan 2020

An aerial photograph of a large industrial harbor, likely the Port of Los Angeles. The image shows a wide river or bay with several large cargo ships and smaller boats. The surrounding area is densely packed with industrial buildings, warehouses, and infrastructure. In the background, a city skyline is visible under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene conveys a sense of a busy, well-developed port.

**WE'RE IN A
GOOD PLACE.
JOIN US.**

HELLO.

The launch of this Action Plan, The Green Blue, is a key step for the Thames Estuary Growth Board and sets out our plans for the first two years, looking ahead across the next ten. But, the Thames Estuary Growth Board is all about getting good things done, so we are already helping to make a number of great things happen. The Thames is an internationally iconic river whose estuary sits next to a world-class and world-famous city. We are in a good place.

In this complex and challenging post-COVID and post-Brexit economic climate, we are helping to coordinate, clarify and bring forward Thames Estuary-based investment propositions to drive growth. Growth opportunities across the Estuary that directly underpin growth in the national economy. We are leading the development of pan-Estuary benefits linked to the securing of a Government-awarded Freeport on the Estuary and we are spearheading the development of a hydrogen ecosystem across the Estuary to enable the greening of our transport on land and water.

We are backing key infrastructure projects to make sure they receive the investment they need and are delivered within timeframes that make sense. These projects include the Lower Thames Crossing, improving connectivity to Ebbsfleet, the protection and improved usage of the river's piers and wharves and strategic road improvements.

We recognise and value the role that culture and creativity play in happy and successful places and the

significant role that, as a sector, it can play in growing the economy. To that end, we are supporting the Thames Estuary Production Corridor, the Estuary festival and the implementation of Arts Council England's new strategy 'Let's Create'.

We believe passionately that businesses are best placed to commission the skills that they need to grow. To that end, we are developing skills programmes for both the Production Corridor and for the port and logistics sectors that will revolutionise the way that growth can be de-risked through skills that really work.

This Board, this place, this movement is all about great green growth coursing deep with the blue of our Estuary lifeblood, the Thames. Working together, we are going to help deliver the kind of growth we as the Estuary, we as a nation, want. The kind of growth we need, the kind of growth we deserve. It's going to be amazing. Come with us.

Kate Willard

Chair Thames Estuary Growth Board and Thames Estuary Envoy

**A GOOD PLACE
TO GROW.**



THE GREEN BLUE.

This Action Plan will maximise the benefits, potential and opportunities of the UK's most important waterway, the River Thames, and the land, communities, places and businesses that are bound to it.

The Thames Estuary is essential for the national economy in ensuring economic recovery and growth. The Growth Board and Envoy will help catalyse national and regional government, local authorities, business and partners to work together to deliver this plan. With a single and coherent voice to Government, we will help ensure we deliver what's needed; job growth, an appropriate transport infrastructure, major inward investment, coherent and sensible housing expansion, a green energy infrastructure and a workforce ready to meet the challenges and opportunities that are emerging.

The Estuary and this Plan offer a set of conditions unique within the country:

- By developing the economic potential of the Thames Estuary, we have viable access to international markets and directly into London. No other part of the country can offer this connectivity and access.
- The impact of the Estuary on the national economy is and will be greater than that of any other part of the country.
- The Thames is the iconic river of the country and its associations with the capital ensures we can promote the wider area internationally with real credibility.

A close-up photograph of a teal rope with a striped fabric sleeve, secured with a knot, against a blurred background. The rope is the central focus, with its intricate knotting and the texture of the fabric sleeve clearly visible. The background is out of focus, showing hints of a blue sky and a dark structure, possibly part of a boat or a building.

**A GOOD PLACE
TO CONNECT.**

FOUNDATIONS FOR DELIVERY.

To deliver sustainable growth, the Estuary needs the right infrastructure in place, being used at its optimum potential.

The Growth Board and Envoy are able to support initiatives, schemes and innovation in a number of ways. Sometimes we will lead, sometimes we will champion, sometimes we will hand hold – but always for good reason. We will be there when we are needed and not when we aren't.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of foundation infrastructure initiatives that we will support in whatever way is appropriate:

- maximising Estuary-wide benefits from a Freeport for the Estuary;
- improving and increasing use of the river and rail to carry more passengers and freight of all types;
- safeguarding and improving the use of wharves and piers across the Estuary;
- the consolidation of Smithfield, Billingsgate and New Spitalfields markets at their new site on the Estuary;
- the delivery of an Estuary-wide hydrogen infrastructure;
- improving connectivity to Ebbsfleet;
- the Lower Thames Crossing, recognising that we will support and help work through remaining challenges and opportunities
- the Thames Estuary Production Corridor;
- delivering and enabling excellent digital infrastructure;
- sensible and thought-through housing growth, bringing clarity to the link between housing, employment and infrastructure and making sure the right infrastructure is in place to support housing growth;
- the right roads prioritised within the UK'S strategic and major roads networks.

**A GOOD
PLACE
TO DO
BUSINESS.**



THE PEOPLE THAT MAKE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN.

Delivering good growth isn't just about the nuts and bolts. It's about people. People with the right skills, people with the right opportunity and motivation and people who are properly connected.

The Thames Estuary has the right people. They have passion. They have drive and entrepreneurial spirit. And they make things happen.

In terms of the delivery bodies, the leaders and the businesses themselves, they also need to work together in strength and with a shared desire to win, to get things done and not to settle for the 'same old'. The Growth Board and the Envoy will work with existing great partnerships, help build new partnerships that work well and help to unravel those that might, for whatever reason, have got tangled.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of foundation people initiatives that we will support in whatever way is appropriate:

- a new business-led skills commissioning and financing board;
- improving and increasing use of the river and rail to carry passengers, linked to cycling and walking;
- a co-ordinated approach to transport across the Estuary with Transport for East, Transport for South East and Transport for London;
- the Estuary festival in Spring 2021;
- the delivery of Arts Council England's Strategy 2020- 2030 'Let's Create';
- working with our Higher Education institutions and others, support innovation and research and development, in particular with sustainable energy and life sciences.

**A GOOD PLACE
TO INSPIRE.**



THE GREAT GREEN.

The Thames Estuary is beautiful. It is full of wonderful and special places that need love, care and respect. And these places also need to be used and enjoyed by everyone.

They are special, not exclusive, dynamic, not dusty. Supported properly, they will keep us happy, healthy and inspired.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of foundation green initiatives that we will support in whatever way is appropriate:

- the greening of transport and energy across the Estuary;
- improved access to green spaces and the riverside;

- a co-ordinated approach to green spaces across the Estuary;
- the development of an action plan in response to the Government-commissioned natural capital study;
- championing the Estuary's green spaces and places to support the visitor economy.

WE ARE THE

GO-TO PLACE.



THE GO-TO PLACE.

The Estuary has long been a great place to invest and grow. From the Romans through to modern times, it has been chosen for its location, its connectivity, its people.

We will now reposition the Estuary as this amazing area with huge potential. This means a shared plan that key stakeholders advocate, a successful brand that is recognised internationally and an effective partnership with Government.

Our reputation for getting good things done well will ensure that within two years, the Thames Estuary will be seen as the first place in the world to invest.

**WE ARE THE
GO-TO PEOPLE.**



THE GO-TO PEOPLE.

The Thames Estuary Growth Board is building a reputation as the Board that gets things done.

Our work will be supplemented by the actions of the Thames Estuary Envoy, the Board Chair, who works independently with agility to unstick the stuck and is loud and clear when needed. This strong and diverse Board is unified in its ambitions for growth and committed to being the body that enables the Estuary to capitalise on its outstanding potential for growth.

The Board will establish credibility and influence with those that matter. This includes investors, regional and national government, public, private and third sector organisations, businesses and the media.

The Growth Board and the Envoy are looking forward to working with you to deliver this Plan and to make the Estuary brilliant.

Whether you've got a question, a suggestion or would just like to join us – we'd love to hear from you.



**WE'RE IN A
GOOD PLACE.**



**WE'RE IN A
GOOD PLACE.
JOIN US.**



Thames
Estuary

REFERENCES.

Thames Estuary 2050 Commission Report

Government Response to the Thames Estuary Commission Report

APPENDIX.

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