

Press Notice FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

London, 08 October 2024

[Thames Estuary Growth Board](#) urges swift decision on Lower Thames Crossing amid delay

The Thames Estuary Growth Board expresses its deep disappointment at the further delay to a decision on the Lower Thames Crossing. This crucial infrastructure project is key to unlocking economic growth the Thames Estuary, and beyond, and continued delays only hinder progress at a critical time for the region and the UK as a whole.

The delay adds significant costs to an already congested network, with each additional six months potentially costing the UK economy £100 million. Businesses in the region, already facing unprecedented challenges, will continue to struggle under the strain of uncertainty and congestion at the Dartford Crossing, the most heavily used road network subject to a user charge in the UK.

Further, through their commitment to using hydrogen power, the lower Thames Crossing presents a fantastic opportunity to supercharge the green energy market in the Thames Estuary, providing high value jobs to people across the region while strengthening the UK's energy resilience and reducing carbon emissions.

Kate Willard OBE, Thames Estuary Envoy and Chair of the Thames Estuary Growth Board, commented: *"This delay is incredibly frustrating for all of us committed to unlocking the future prosperity of the Thames Estuary. The longer we wait, the more businesses and communities across the region suffer. The Lower Thames Crossing is not just vital for reducing congestion and driving long-term growth, but also for delivering the UK's first hydrogen-powered infrastructure project, which will kickstart a green energy revolution in the region. Every delay means missing out on this crucial opportunity to lead the way in sustainable development."*

The Thames Estuary Growth Board remains committed to delivering transformative projects that will unlock the region's potential and contribute to the UK's future prosperity. We are hopeful that a swift decision will soon be reached, allowing the Lower Thames Crossing to move forward and begin delivering the infrastructure needed to support growth, reduce congestion, and drive green innovation. This project will bring significant long-term benefits, and we look forward to working with all partners to make it a reality.

Notes to Editors: About the Thames Estuary Growth Board

The Thames Estuary Growth Board is dedicated to unlocking the economic potential of the Thames Estuary. By fostering collaboration, driving investment, and spearheading innovative development projects, the Board is committed to transforming the Estuary into a thriving, sustainable, and economically vibrant region.

The Growth Board works to engage national and international investors, showcasing the Estuary's potential as a prime location for investment. Through targeted initiatives, the board will highlight key development sites, foster investor relations, and drive forward the region's economic prospects.

The Growth Board remains steadfast in its commitment to driving growth that is not only economically beneficial but also equitable and environmentally sustainable. Through these strategic initiatives and the dedicated support of our stakeholders, we are setting the stage for a brighter, more prosperous future for the Thames Estuary.

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