



THAMES VISION PROGRESS REPORT

OCTOBER 2018



Vision Summary



We launched the Thames Vision on 4 July 2016, setting out a bold Vision for the future of the Thames that stakeholders had helped shape over the previous 18 months. Two years on, we are taking the opportunity to share progress, and look at the opportunities and challenges ahead.

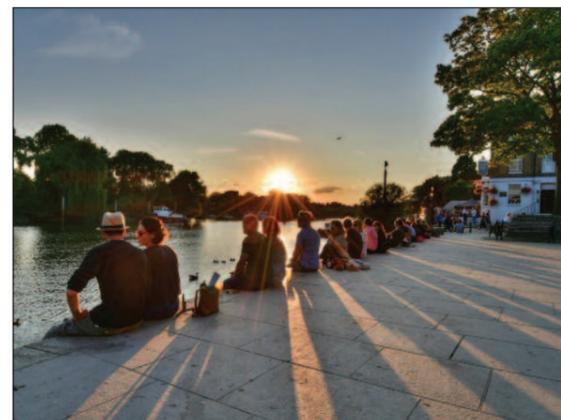
The Vision set broad goals for all aspects of Thames development, from trade and travel to environment and culture. Since the launch, the Vision goals have been progressively integrated into the fabric of London planning and other policies. Targets for river passenger

transport, inland waterways freight and environment feature in the London Plan, and the Mayor's transport and environment strategies. The Thames Estuary Growth Commission 2050 report, which is out for consultation, also includes Vision targets.

The Thames & London Waterways Forum, launched in September 2017, has a leading role coordinating action on passenger transport, inland waterways freight and broader cultural uses of the river in London. At the PLA, we have launched an Investment Plan with the explicit goal of supporting delivery of Thames Vision goals.



As we look to the next two years, opportunity and challenge is before us in equal measure. The impact of Brexit on port trade is unclear, although terminals on the Thames are well placed to handle additional freight shipped from the continent. For inland waterways freight, there are insufficient wharves to meet increasing demand to use the Thames, while the potential for tensions between operational wharves and other development remain live.

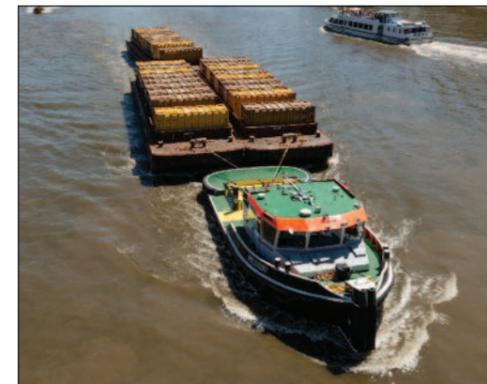


Funding for investment in passenger piers is a real challenge. With public funding in extremely short supply, future growth is likely to depend heavily on private sector schemes.



As the Tideway project continues apace to deliver the cleanest water quality in the Thames since the Industrial Revolution, we are seeing increasing concern around the impact of river operations on air quality. This is something we are tackling through the Air Quality Strategy for the tidal Thames, launched this year.

We are hugely excited by the work we have undertaken with the Greater London Authority around the development of a cultural strategy for the river. The Illuminated River project is set to turn the eyes of local, national and global communities to the



Thames next year. The evident enthusiasm at stakeholder sessions held in the initial research phase developing the strategy indicates this is an area many people are ready to embrace.

In terms of scale, the Barking Riverside scheme is a unique chance to 'build the river in' to a new community from the start, whether for travel, supplies or sport and recreation. It is something we are really excited to work on with the development team.

Sport and recreation is an area of huge potential too, where our progress so far has not been as rapid as in other areas but where we are picking up the pace.

In summary, two years on, delivery of the Vision is progressing well. Where we have challenges we know what they are and we are working to address them. More than anything, we continue to be inspired by the collective enthusiasm to make the most of the tidal Thames.

We'll continue to report back on progress.

Robin Mortimer
Chief Executive

Port of London – more trade, more jobs

Vision said: *The busiest ever Port of London, handling 60 – 80 million tonnes of cargo each year, on the doorstep of Europe’s biggest metropolitan consumer market.*

- Sustain private sector investment
- Improve navigational access to the port
- Improve rail and road access to port operations/terminals, including:
 - Lower Thames Crossing, downstream of Tilbury, by 2025
 - At least three further Thames crossings to the east of Tower Bridge, that allow continuation of river trade; the first by 2022
 - Widening of the A13, by the end of 2018
 - Closure of level crossings affecting operational terminals, by 2020
 - Deliver efficient, effective and sustainable PLA harbour and pilotage services to support growth

Developments since Vision launch:

- Port trade in 2017: 49.9 million tonnes (+10%, compared to 2015 baseline: 45.3 million tonnes)
- Sustained private sector investment in the port (Port of Tilbury, London Gateway, Cobelfret, OIKOS, Thames Oil Port, Navigator, Nustar)
- Lower Thames Crossing route announced
- Port of London Infrastructure Group established as valuable operator/infrastructure/ government forum
- First PLA Investment Plan launched
- First Investment Plan agreement concluded with CEMEX, for new and improved discharge system at Northfleet
- Continued PLA investment in pilotage service to meet increasing demand
- PLA operational improvements including investment in new business systems and new pilotage and hydrographic survey vessels

Two-year outlook

- Continued growth in port trade, underpinned by the completion of terminal investments, major development schemes including Tilbury2 and PLA investments in appropriate river infrastructure schemes
- Formal approval processes for the Lower Thames Crossing continue, ahead of construction starting



Port of London Infrastructure Group



Tilbury2 examination in public completed and now with Planning Inspectorate



Lower Thames Crossing route selected and consultations underway



DPWorld London Gateway development continues



Inland freight: more goods off roads onto the river

Vision said: More goods and materials routinely moved between wharves on the river – every year over four million tonnes carried by water – taking over 400,000 lorry trips off the region's roads.

- Double underlying intra-port freight to over four million tonnes
- Champion the Thames as a default choice for moving spoil and materials from infrastructure projects close to the river
- Maintain or reactivate viable cargo handling facilities, with at least five additional facilities brought into operation by 2025
- Extend the River Concordat to promote freight movements by water
- Develop the Thames Skills Academy to provide the skills needed on the river

Developments since Vision launch:

- Underlying intra-port freight in 2017: 3.38 million tonnes (+41%, compared to 2015 baseline: 2.39 million tonnes)
- Extensive work on London Plan Review, with the examination in public on the document due in early 2019
- Greater London Authority Safeguarded Wharves Review completed, with submission to Secretary of State expected by end of 2018
- Peruvian Wharf cleared and ready for occupation – due back into operation by early 2019
- Substantial investment by operators in new inland waterways vessels and barges
- Over 90% of boroughs now have policies or references to use of river for freight transport
- Securing stronger river-related policies in Local Plans
- River Concordat replaced by Thames & London Waterways Forum, with inland waterways freight goals and working group
- First group of 22 Thames Skills Academy apprentices in training

Two-year outlook

- Underlying intra-port freight will continue to grow through operator investments and as safeguarded wharves, including Peruvian Wharf, are progressively brought back into use
- Further growth supported by publication of the London Plan and stronger advocacy for use of the river by boroughs, reflecting references in updated policies



First group of 22 Thames Skills Academy apprentices



Thames and London Waterways Forum



Passenger transport: more journeys

Vision said: Double the number of people travelling by river – reaching 20 million commuter and tourist trips every year.

- Make more efficient use of piers and river space, including new timetabling to manage peaks in traffic
- Innovate to achieve more passenger journeys at current low peak times
- Develop and implement a long-term pier strategy
- Convene a consultative forum to address issues of wash from growth in passenger transport
- Secure the infrastructure required for growth in the transport of passengers and goods on the Thames

Developments since Vision launch:

- Passenger trips in 2017: 10 million (-3%, compared to 2015 baseline: 10.3 million)
- Transport for London/London River Services leading development of a new Pier Strategy, in partnership with PLA and river operators
- Battersea Power Station Pier opened and operational
- New piers expected to open at Royal Wharf, Ordnance Wharf, Barking Riverside & Canary Wharf East
- New vessels brought into service by MBNA Thames Clippers and Thames River Services
- City Cruises vessel in for major refit; new, dedicated MBNA Thames Clippers charter boat in build
- Wash Forum established

Two-year outlook

- Sustainable growth in passenger trips will depend on resolution of capacity issues at central London piers, particularly Embankment and Tower
- Pier network will nevertheless progressively extend East, as new residential developments are built out



New vessels including Thames Rivers Services' Thomas Doggett brought into service



Battersea Power Station Pier opened



Passenger trips
10 million

Sport & recreation: more participants

Vision said: *Greater participation in sport and recreation on and alongside the water.*

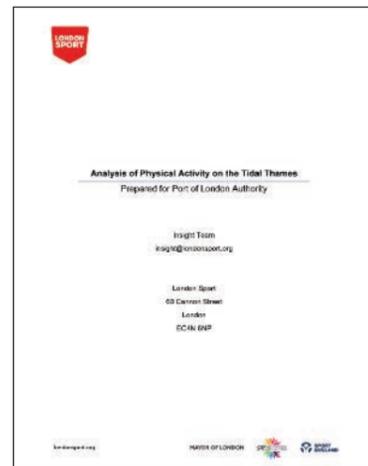
- Ascertain current levels of sport participation and work towards increasing participation on and alongside the Thames
- Extend sport opportunity zones on the river
- Realise new visitor moorings and publicise the availability of all visitor moorings
- Join up the Thames Path from source to sea

Developments since Vision launch:

- First Thames sports participation study identified strong baseline of activity and opportunities for increasing participation in the future
- Working with National Governing Bodies and east London clubs on strategy to boost participation
- Visitor mooring information expanded on PLA leisure website and mooring/marinas meeting established to link users with mooring providers
- A missing link in the Thames Path opened between Charlton and Woolwich
- Sport and recreation club best practice case studies being produced as part of outreach to boroughs promoting positive approach to development of watersports on the Thames
- Annual Foreshore Festival launched by Tideway, giving members of the public a chance to sample river-based recreational activities at Putney and Shadwell

Two-year outlook

- Strategy to boost participation completed and launched, working closely with clubs, boroughs and NGBs
- Strong prospects for new water sports facilities, integrated into major new riverside developments in East London, to open



First Thames sports participation study



Sport & recreation

19,000 participants



Long standing 'missing link' in Thames Path between Woolwich and Charlton added



Sport and recreation club best practice case studies being produced

Environment & heritage: improved tidal Thames environment

Vision said: *The river the cleanest since the Industrial Revolution, with improved habitats and awareness of heritage.*

- Build and bring into operation the Thames Tideway Tunnel by 2021
- Improve water quality by a range of measures including reduced litter in the river
- Improve biodiversity of sites recognised for their wildlife interest, and the connections between them
- Identify and improve access to, and appreciation of, the historic environment along the Thames
- Encourage uptake of new and green technologies to reduce the port's environmental impact

Developments since Vision launch:

- Construction of Thames Tideway Tunnel progressing, with tunnelling expected to start before end 2018
- Thames Litter Strategy published; Cleaner Thames campaign continues; For Fishes Sake 2017 campaign in central London delivered 30% reduction in littering around London Bridge
- Baselines for biodiversity, invasive species and gaps in habitat have been set, ready for action
- Air Quality Strategy for the Thames published and implementation work started
- New, annual environment and heritage conference now a 'go to' Thames event
- Publication of Museum of London Archaeology's 'The river's tale: archaeology on the Thames foreshore in Greater London'
- Order placed for UK's, possibly the world's, first hybrid pilot cutter

Two-year outlook

- Construction of Thames Tideway Tunnel well advanced, with the river acting as the principal mode of transport to carry substantial volumes of construction materials, keeping lorries off roads
- Air Quality Strategy delivery well underway, with new hybrid Woolwich ferries and hybrid PLA pilot cutter in operation, emissions monitoring in Greenwich and the first Thames green technology EXP



Air Quality Strategy for the tidal Thames published



New annual environment and heritage conference

Improved tidal Thames environment

Cleanest river since the industrial revolution

Community & culture: more people enjoying the Thames and its banks

Vision said: A riverside which is a magnet for ramblers, historians, artists and others, whether living nearby, on the river or travelling from further afield.

- Enhance access to information about the Thames
- Educate local school children about the Thames
- Create new appropriate residential moorings accommodating suitable vessels
- Explore development of a Thames brand for culture, heritage and quality of life

Developments since Vision launch:

- PLA working with the GLA on development of cultural strategy for the Thames
- Four-year programme of PLA support for Thames Festival Trust announced, covering delivery of Totally Thames and education outreach in East London
- Enhanced PLA support for Thames Explorer Trust, enabling them to extend education activity delivery over a wider area (Greenwich to Gravesend)
- Further ten-year agreement for the Museum of London to house and curate the PLA archive at the Museum of London Docklands
- First phase of the Illuminated River project due to launch in 2019
- PLA working with partners in the Tidal Thames Water Safety Forum to facilitate river suicide prevention



Further ten year PLA archive agreement with Museum of London



Support for Totally Thames and education boosted

Two-year outlook

- River Culture Strategy complete and launched, drawing together cultural activities and communities along the Thames
- First Rivers of the World conference held at Guildhall as part of Totally Thames 2019

More people

Enjoying the Thames and its banks



About the PLA

At the Port of London Authority we are the Custodians of the tidal Thames. We hold the river in trust, working to hand it on in a better condition to future generations and realising the goals of the Thames Vision.

Our strategy to achieve this is centred on key themes:

- **PROTECT** – targeting Zero Harm and improved sustainability
- **IMPROVE** – running efficient operations and investing to support growing river use
- **PROMOTE** – leading the Thames Vision to unlock the potential of the Thames

Investment to sustain a competitive and sustainable port and river is at the heart of our approach.



About the tidal Thames

The tidal Thames stretches 95 miles from Teddington Lock, through central London, out to the North Sea. The busiest inland waterway in the country, it is home to the country's second biggest port and is a growing centre for sport and recreation.

Economically, the port plays a key role in supply chains serving the UK markets of London, the south east and beyond. Over 40,000 jobs depend on the port, which generates over £4 billion in economic value added annually. More than 100,000 further jobs and over £2 billion of economic value added is generated every year by millions of people enjoying the Thames as an amenity.

Photos courtesy of: Astrid Tontson, Bennett's Barges, Ben Fitzpatrick, City Cruises, DP World London Gateway, Fulham Reach Boat Club, Highways England, MBNA Thames Clippers, Port of Tilbury, Royal Borough of Greenwich, Thames Explorer Trust, Thames Festival Trust and Thames River Services.



Notes



CUSTODIANS OF THE TIDAL THAMES

PROTECT | IMPROVE | PROMOTE

www.pla.co.uk
[@LondonPortAuth](https://twitter.com/LondonPortAuth)
www.youtube.com/portoflondon
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