



THAMES VISION CONSULTATION ON GOALS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS



A 20-YEAR VISION FOR THE TIDAL THAMES

The Thames Vision is the first project of its kind: a 20-year development framework for the busiest tidal river in the UK, running 95 miles through London to the North Sea.

Already the Thames is home to the UK's second biggest port.

There are record numbers of people travelling by river and hundreds of thousands of lorry trips saved by using the Thames to move goods and materials. The river is the safest it's ever been and sustains more wildlife than it has for generations.



By 2035, the river can offer us even more. The Vision sees greater use of the Thames in all aspects from trade to passenger travel, sport and recreation to cultural enjoyment. To achieve this requires long-term thinking and strong partnerships across public, commercial and voluntary sectors. The more river and wider stakeholders unite behind common goals, the more likely we will



realise our collective ambitions for the Thames.

A shared Vision, reflected in public policies, will encourage entrepreneurial innovation and provide a stable environment for investment.

This consultation on goals and priority actions is an important milestone in the Vision's

development. In it we share the emerging priorities that we have heard through ten months of consultation and discussions with the public and river communities, together with a proposed set of goals, and actions to achieve them. We want now to stimulate continued discussion as we develop the complete Vision document for consultation in the Spring of next year.

Thank you for your involvement so far. We want to continue to hear from as many people as possible and I look forward to hearing your views.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Robin Mortimer'.

Robin Mortimer
PLA Chief Executive
December 2015

WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED

The Vision is founded on input from a lot of people, reflecting the breadth of uses and the geography of the Thames. Working together, we've shaped a view of how we want to see the Thames develop in the future. The emerging goals for the Thames Vision are that by 2035 we can see:

- 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
- more goods and materials moved between wharves on the river – every year sustaining the record level of 5.5 million tonnes carried by water in 2014 – taking 550,000 lorry trips off the region's roads
- double the number of people travelling by river – reaching 20 million commuter and tourist trips every year
- greater participation in sport and recreation on the water
- the cleanest Thames since the Industrial Revolution, with improved habitats in the water and on adjoining land
- a riverside which is a magnet for ramblers, historians, artists and others, whether living nearby, on the river or travelling from further afield

Priorities will be different depending on the part of the river, so we are also publishing (opposite) a new 'opportunity map' for the tidal Thames. This summarises current and potential river uses and infrastructure. It also identifies particular 'opportunity zones' for growth.

Achieving the goals will only be possible if a wide range of partners pull together. Alongside this summary document we are publishing the Goals and Priority Actions consultation document including priority actions proposed to turn the Vision into reality. These actions are summarised in the boxes on the map.



THAMES VISION: GOALS & PRIORITY ACTIONS TO 2035



Inland freight: More goods off roads onto the river

GOAL

- More goods and materials moved between wharves on the river – every year sustaining the record level of 5.5 million tonnes carried by water in 2014

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- Establish the Thames as the default choice for transport of waste and construction materials; and increasingly containerised goods
- Protect and reactivate safeguarded wharves with at least Peruvian, Orchard and Hurlingham wharves brought into operation over the next decade
- Work with Transport for London and the Greater London Authority to extend the River Concordat to promote freight movements by water
- Establish a Thames Skills Academy by Autumn 2016, to provide a sustainable model for skills development on the Thames



Environment and heritage: Improved tidal Thames environment

GOAL

- The cleanest Thames since the Industrial Revolution, with improved habitats in the water and on adjoining land

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- Tideway to build and bring the Thames Tideway Tunnel into operation by 2023
- Water quality improves to 'good'
- Joined-up Thames Path running from Teddington to the sea
- Improve biodiversity of nature reserves: wherever practicable all Sites of Special Scientific Interest along the river brought into 'favourable' condition



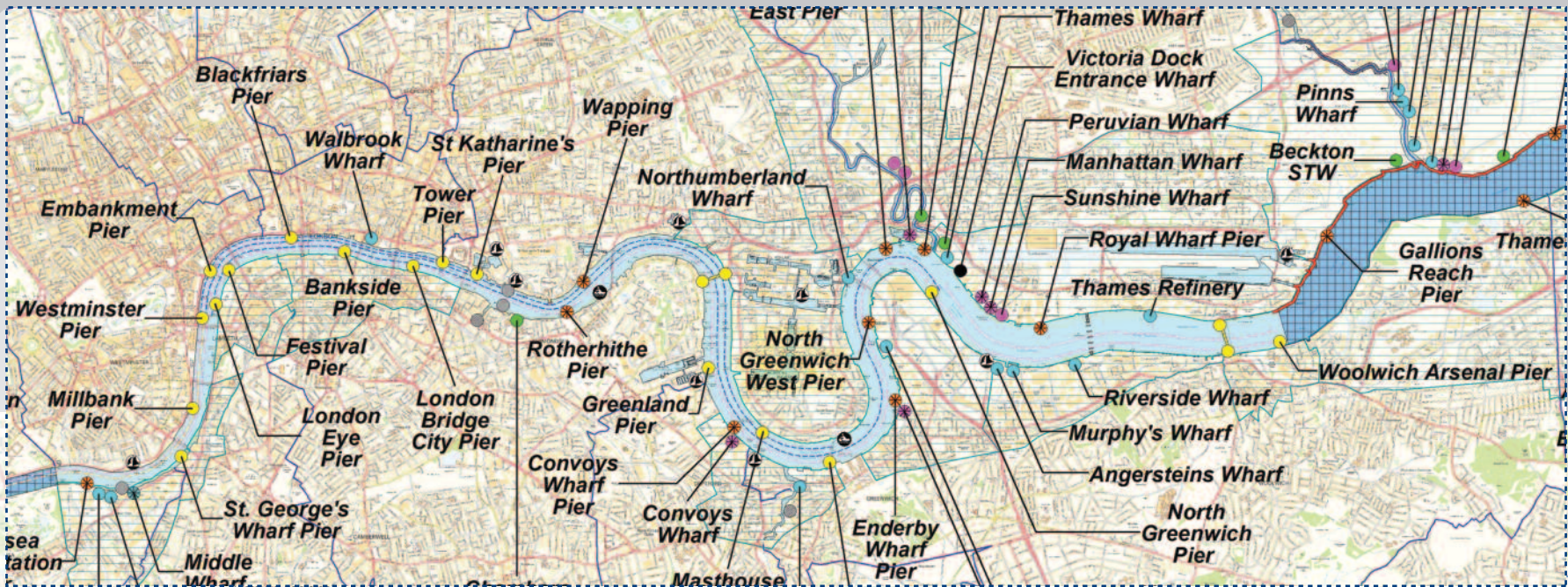
Passenger transport: More journeys

GOAL

- Double the number of people travelling by river – reaching 20 million commuter and tourist trips every year

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- Make more efficient use of piers and river space, including new timetabling to manage peaks in traffic
- Encourage more use at current low peak times
- Long-term pier strategy, going beyond the existing River Action Plan: new piers at Thamesmead, Erith, Greenhithe, Swanscombe, Grays and Tilbury by 2025



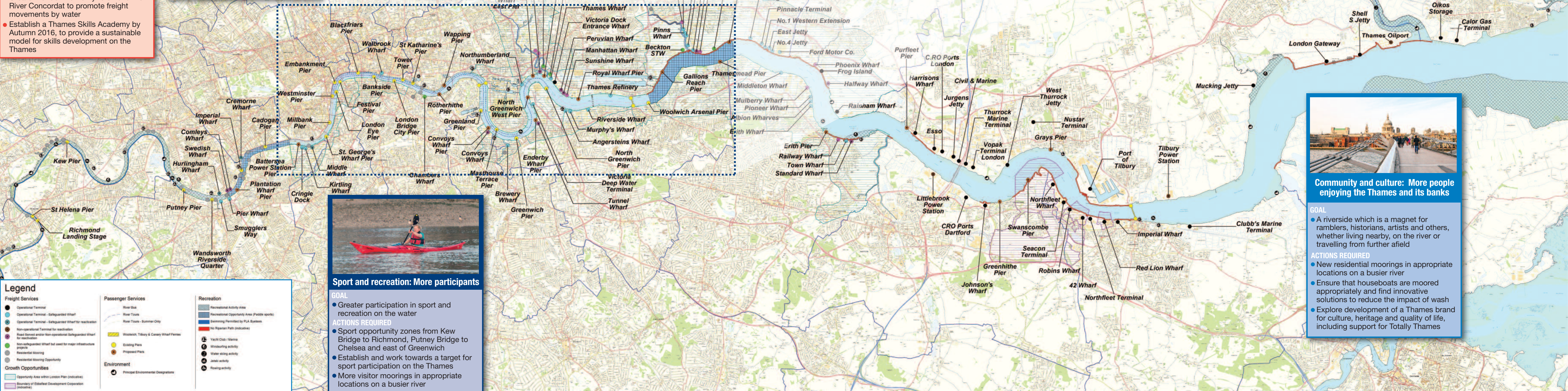
Port of London: More trade, more jobs

GOAL

- 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

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- Sustained private sector investment
- Continued improvements to the main navigation channels
- Lower Thames crossing downstream of Tilbury, by 2025
- Widening of A13, by the end of 2018
- Electrification of the Barking to Gospel Oak line, by Summer 2017
- At least three further Thames crossings to the east of Tower Bridge, that allow continuation of river trade; the first by 2022
- Closure of level crossings affecting operational terminals, by 2020



Sport and recreation: More participants

GOAL

- Greater participation in sport and recreation on the water

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- Sport opportunity zones from Kew Bridge to Richmond, Putney Bridge to Chelsea and east of Greenwich
- Establish and work towards a target for sport participation on the Thames
- More visitor moorings in appropriate locations on a busier river



Community and culture: More people enjoying the Thames and its banks

GOAL

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

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- New residential moorings in appropriate locations on a busier river
- Ensure that houseboats are moored appropriately and find innovative solutions to reduce the impact of wash
- Explore development of a Thames brand for culture, heritage and quality of life, including support for Totally Thames

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

We welcome comments by **Monday, 15 February 2016.**

You can find a copy of the Goals and Priority Actions consultation document online at: www.pla.co.uk/ThamesVision. This dedicated web section also includes the data we have drawn on to develop the Vision. This includes responses to the initial 'call for evidence', public meetings, roundtable discussions and the findings of research into the economic and amenity value of the Thames.

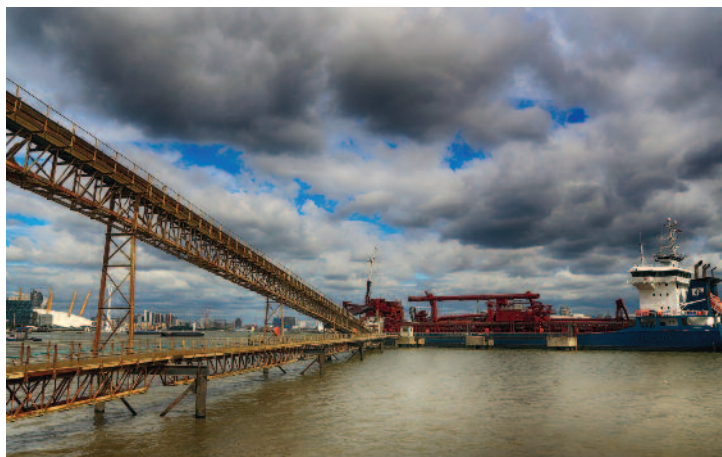
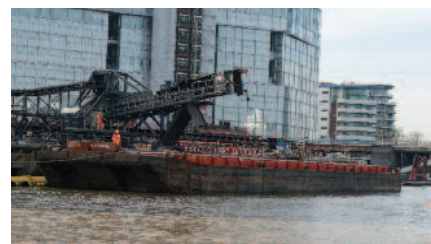
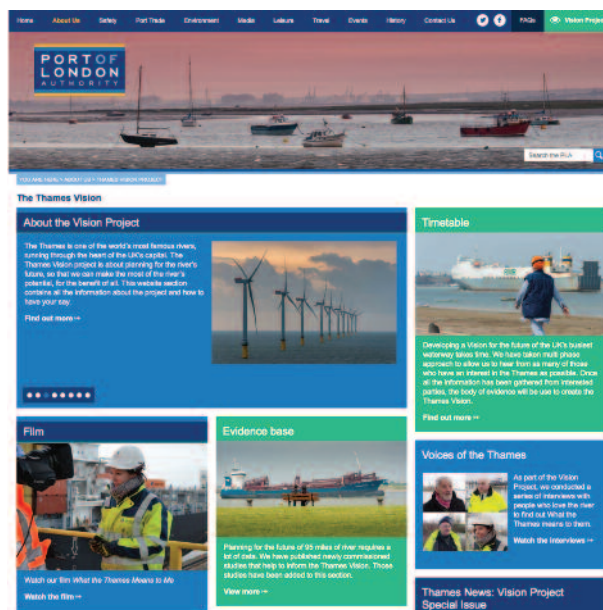
In particular we are looking to hear your feedback on these questions:

1. Are these the right goals for the Thames Vision?
2. Are these the right priority actions to achieve the Vision?
3. Are there other goals and priority actions you think are needed in the Thames Vision?

We are also keen to understand which section(s) of the river your views relate to: Teddington Lock – Putney Bridge; Putney Bridge – Thames Barrier; or Thames Barrier to Southend.

You can share your feedback via:

- online form on the website (www.pla.co.uk/ThamesVision)
- email to thames.vision@pla.co.uk
- post to Katherine Riggs, Vision Project Director, Port of London Authority, London River House, Royal Pier Road, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BG





At the Port of London Authority we manage navigational safety along the tidal Thames, sharing our marine, environmental, planning and other expertise to promote use of the river and safeguard its unique marine environment.



www.pla.co.uk
[@LondonPortAuth](https://twitter.com/LondonPortAuth)
www.youtube.com/portoflondon
01474-562200