

# ANNUAL STAKEHOLDER FORUM 2025

12 JUNE 2025



# Agenda

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|---------------|---|
| 2.00 - 2.30pm | Registration and refreshments                                       |
| 2.30 - 2.31pm | Housekeeping  |
| 2.31 - 2.40pm | Introduction, PLA Chair, Jonson Cox CBE                             |
| 2.40 - 2.55pm | Overview of 2024 and Lookahead, PLA Chief Executive, Robin Mortimer |
| 2.55 - 3.40pm | Audience Q&A – in-person and online, PLA Executive Committee        |
| 3.40 - 3.45pm | Close, PLA Chair, Jonson Cox CBE                                    |
| 3.45 - 4.15pm | Networking  |

# INTRODUCTION

**JONSON COX CBE**  
**PLA CHAIR**

## 2024 Highlights

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- A working river, home to the UK's largest port and busiest inland waterway, on track for Net Zero by 2040
- Advancing the UK government's growth agenda and contributing over **£4 billion** gross value added
- Improving water quality through cleaning efforts, gaining commitments from water companies and supporting the connection of the Thames Tideway Tunnel



# Governance & accountability

- Accountable to Department for Transport and board members appointed by Secretary of State
- Held to account through public meetings, stakeholder forum, river user groups and subject specific meetings
- The annual stakeholder survey showed ongoing support on:
  - Safety
  - Growth including light freight initiatives
  - Community and cultural engagement
  - Sustainability



# 2024 OVERVIEW & LOOK AHEAD

**ROBIN MORTIMER**  
**PLA CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



## 2024 Overview - PLA in Numbers

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9<sub>m</sub>

PASSENGERS

2.64<sub>m</sub>

TONNES INLAND  
WATERWAYS FREIGHT

719

SPORTING  
EVENTS

51.9<sub>m</sub>

TONNES OF GOODS  
HANDLED IN 2024

41.9<sub>k</sub>

LIGHT FREIGHT  
PACKAGES

245

RIVER CLEAN UP  
EVENTS  
SUPPORTED

## 2024 Overview - Customer Service Update

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100%

VESSEL TRAFFIC  
SERVICE LEVEL

99.5%

PILOTAGE SERVICE  
LEVEL

98.9%

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS  
SERVICE LEVEL

200

FORESHORE  
PERMITS ISSUED



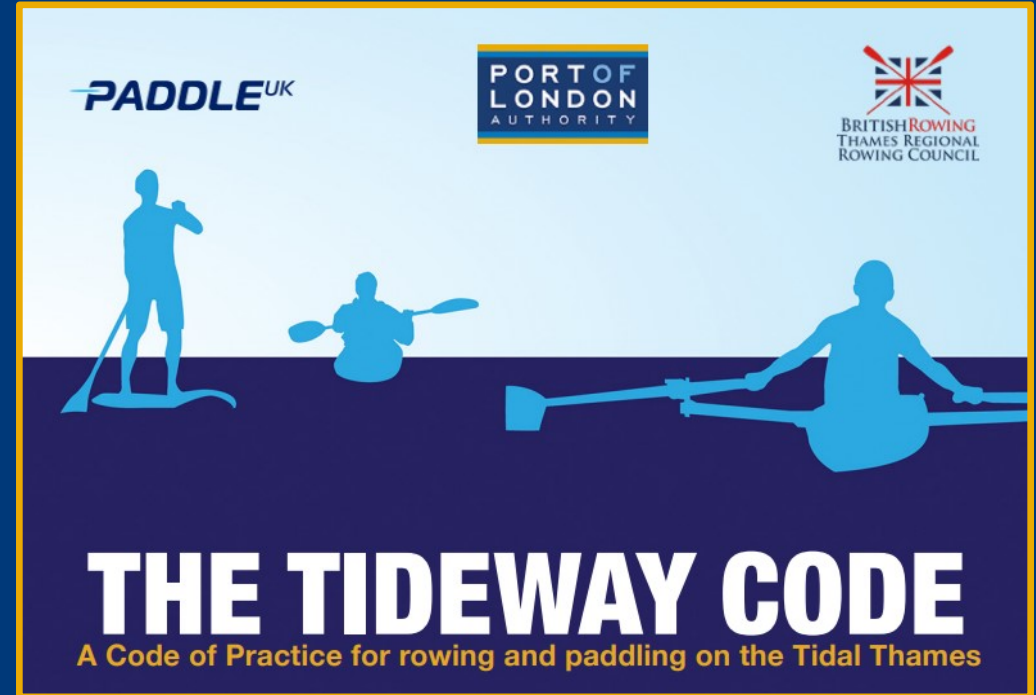
# SAFETY





# Navigational Safety

- 1 Serious Navigational incident
- New edition of the **Tideway Code** issued
- Completed first year of **Marine Safety Plan**
- **Thames Continuing Professional Development** scheme with TSA introduced and safety strategy refresh planned for 2025
- 2 x District Harbour Master Teams
- Refreshed Operation CLASP - Class V river compliance checks
- Regular tree management works to ensure public and river user safety, with **£160,000** invested in **2024**
- Encourage Near Miss and Incident Reporting



# TRADING THAMES

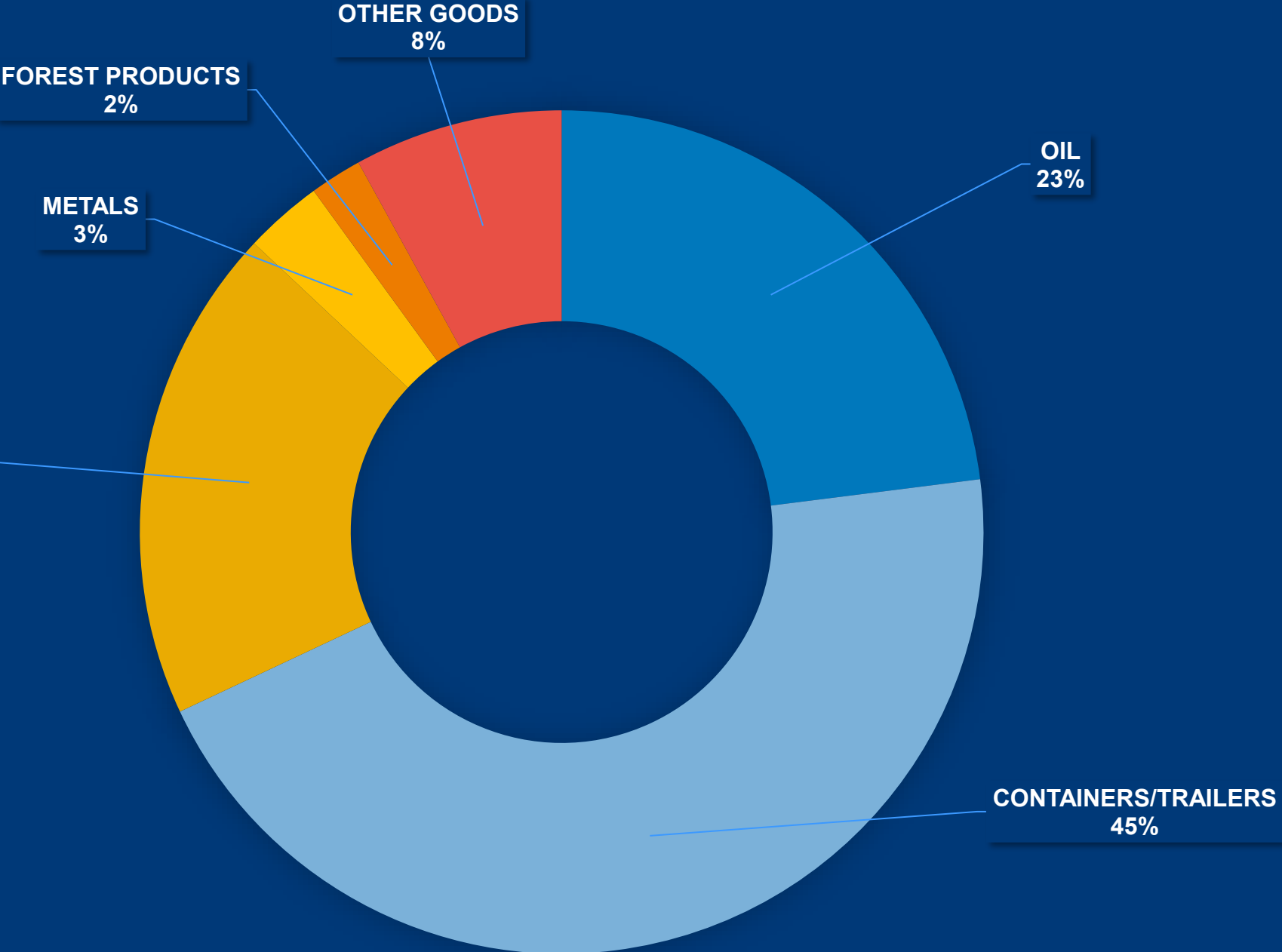


The UK's leading port, Net Zero by 2040

PORT OF  
LONDON  
AUTHORITY



# Port Trade by Type





# Trade Outlook

- London Gateway Berth 4 is fully operational with consenting for Berth 5 now underway and Berth 6 in planning
- New 'Gemini Alliance' (Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd) first call at London Gateway March 2025
- Port of Tilbury 'Tilbury3' expansion planning application submitted
- Cory Decarbonisation Project Development Consent Order decision expected November 2025



## Trading Thames – Supported by PLA

- **£9m** Marine Centre Transformation Programme, including a new Operations Centre: anticipating next 25 years of growth
- Other Major Investment Projects:
  - Denton development works
  - Mid-size multi-purpose vessel, Thames oil spill clearance vessel and new pilot cutter
  - Radar replacement programme
- Ongoing investment in pilot training
- Key role in consenting infrastructure projects on the Thames





# DESTINATION THAMES

# Promoting and Diversifying River Usage

- **Tidal Thames Masterplans** available across **8** boroughs, with **5** more in progress this year
- **Thames Festival Trust** programme sponsorship:
  - **Totally Thames**
  - **Thames Lens**
- Funding **Thames Explorer Trust** since **2008**
- Charitable donations and support at **Ellenor Hospice**, **Bridge Watch**, **Gravesham Foodbank** and more
- Hosted 'Santa on the Thames', offering **Evelina Children's Hospital** patients, families and staff a festive boat ride in partnership with Uber Boat by Thames Clippers and Tideway



# Active Thames Fund

- Promoting the active use of blue space with a focus on accessibility and inclusion
- **Active Thames Impact Report 2024** published:
  - **£193,535** awarded
  - **3826** participants
  - **158** coaches trained and upskilled
  - **982** people with a disability or physical or mental health conditions
  - **3178** were under the age of 25
  - **2077** were from a minority ethnic background
- Development of social value measurement for future years



# NATURAL THAMES

# Clean River

- **25km Thames Tideway Tunnel**, a **15-year** project for the PLA as consultee and regulator, is now connected
  - **No spills** have entered the river since the super sewer has opened
- **Clean Thames Plan** Parliamentary launch, outlining **10** priority actions to reduce sewage, litter and pollution in the tidal Thames
- Working on a project to clean up the wet wipe accumulations at Hammersmith
- Passive debris collectors deployed along the Tidal Thames capturing litter and making progress towards a cleaner, healthier river





## Biodiverse River

- The tidal Thames is home to over-wintering birds, marine and terrestrial mammals, invertebrates, 125 fish species, and diverse plants
- The PLA records environmental observations, including incidents, near misses, and species sightings
- Ensuring new developments positively impact ecosystems, achieving **10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)** on-site or off-site



# Net Zero River

- PLA Net Zero River Action Plan – decarbonising PLA operations
  - Aim to be Net Zero by 2040
  - Transitioned vessel fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), resulting in 83% decrease in vessel emissions
  - Vehicle fleet electrification
- Net Zero River Plan – facilitating the decarbonisation of the working river
  - Transition to alternative fuels and infrastructure
  - Launched Net Zero Coalition
  - Unlock funding
- Partnership with the Electric Thames initiative, led by UK Power Networks
- **£129,000** awarded (to date) through the **Environment Fund**



# FINANCE AND REGULATORY UPDATES



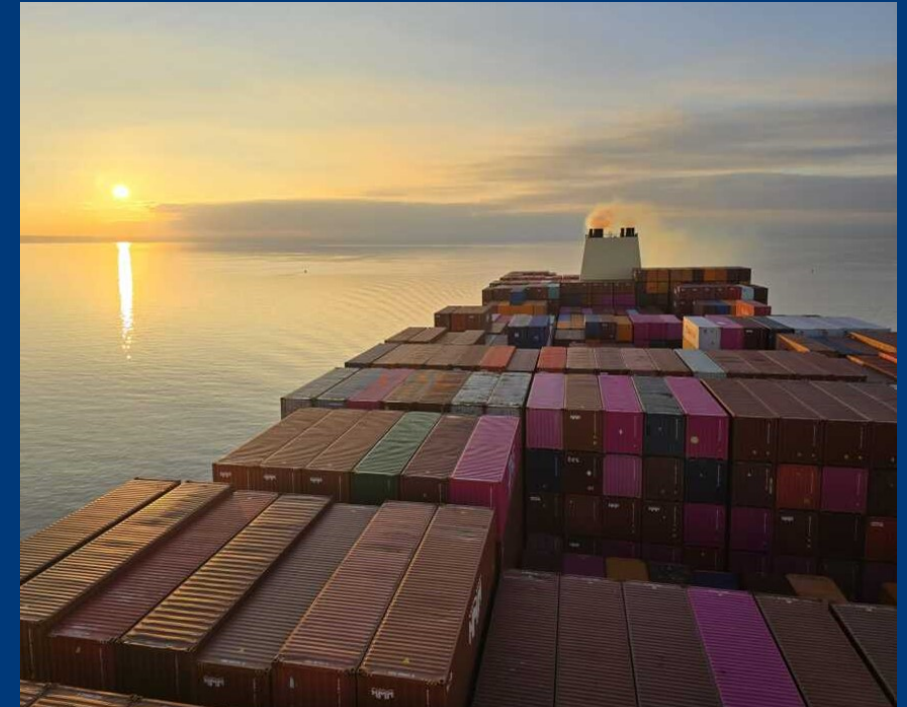
# Financial Performance

- ↑ 2024 turnover grew **9.8%** to **£99.7m**
- ↑ **£10.9m** PLA and ESL cash capital investment
- ↑ Operating surplus rose to **£17.8m**
  - **5-10%** was spent on charitable donations, sponsorship, business and community benefits



# Harbour Revision Order (HRO)

- In 2019, the PLA sought a Harbour Revision Order to update 60-year-old legislation to help keep ships, people, and the environment safe
- Measures to modernise approach, to improve safety and the environment and to increase transparency and decision making.
- PLA and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) have been consulting and seeking evidence; majority of stakeholders' concerns addressed through that process
- MMO set public inquiry (Feb/March 2025) to consider any remaining concerns
- PLA awaiting report and recommendations from inquiry Chair and MMO
- Committed to looking again at our approach to charging for domestic balconies following feedback received, on which we continue to engage with stakeholders



# QUESTIONS?





# THANK YOU