Thames Gateway Interim Plan

Key Points
The Thames Gateway is a great place to invest, live and work. It is a fantastic location, close to the capital and the gateway to Europe. It has enormous assets – thriving local communities, brownfield land for new jobs and homes, and beautiful green spaces with the Thames estuary at its heart. It is a place of great potential.

But the Gateway is not performing as well as the rest of the Greater South East. A more prosperous Gateway is good for the people who live there now; for the rest of London which can continue to grow more sustainably; and for the economy of the whole country. That is why the Government made a commitment in November 2005 to produce a framework for the Gateway ‘to shape and guide investments, decisions and actions. … A framework which integrates economic, public service and housing development’.

Since November 2005, the Thames Gateway Strategic Partnership has worked together to produce a statement of common purpose that reflects our ambitions for the Gateway and how we will achieve them. It explains how we will build on the opportunities it offers:

- **economic opportunity** in key locations – Canary Wharf, Ebbsfleet Valley, the Olympic site/Stratford City and the Gateway ports cluster – as well as town centres
- **housing opportunity** to accommodate the region’s growing workforce and improve conditions for current residents

Harty Ferry in Kent.
- **environmental opportunity** through the creation of the Thames Gateway Parklands and new approaches to addressing climate change and flood risk; and
- **community opportunity** through investment in education and training, better quality public services and support for inclusive communities.

There is already real progress that people can see. Canary Wharf is growing, with over 80,000 people working there. International services will start on the high speed Channel Tunnel Rail Link next year. New universities at Medway and Southend are changing people’s ideas about what higher education can offer and attracting new students.

New services are arriving even before the new housing, like in Gravesham and Dartford where the new Fastrack dedicated bus service is already well used. The architect-designed Environment and Education Centre at Rainham Marshes has just opened, giving local people access to an important RSPB bird sanctuary. There’s new family housing at the award-winning St Mary’s Island development in Chatham. And all over the Gateway, people can see development under way.

But this is a vision that will take commitment to achieve. The new Chief Executive for the Thames Gateway, Judith Armitt, will lead the government’s work to support delivery by the public and private sectors across the Gateway.

The Thames Gateway Interim Plan has three parts:
- A Policy Framework, available in published form from the address below or on the web at www.communities.gov.uk/thamesgateway
- A Development Prospectus, which describes in more detail what is planned for the three sub-regions of the Gateway (London, South Essex and North Kent) and what developments are going to happen when. This is also available as a published document or on the web.
- A Technical Annex, with more supporting information and links to data sources and other research, available only on the web.
Active and energetic
London will host the 2012 Games in the Thames Gateway. This is a unique opportunity to bring international recognition to the area but we want to ensure that it also brings a lasting legacy of development, skills for work and participation in sport throughout the Gateway. In the Olympic Park there will be a new velodrome and an aquatics centre for everyone to use after the Games are over.

Ambitious and aspiring
We want to make sure everyone knows about the great future planned for the Gateway. Our ambition is summed up in the idea of creating the Thames Gateway Parklands: enhancing the network of green spaces, rivers and waterways we already have and ensuring that the development within them is in character and good quality. Our ambitions are not just about places; they are also about the people of the Gateway. We want everyone to have the opportunity to create prosperity for themselves. We are developing more ways to help people get the skills they need so they can take advantage of new job opportunities.

Connected and cohesive
We want to get the basics right – transport that serves both the UK economy and the Gateway, access to good jobs, a mix of homes for sale and rent, good education and health facilities, and distinctive town centres. Because that’s what builds communities and offers everyone a good quality of life.

Planet friendly
We are transforming the Gateway’s environment to provide a better landscape to live in. By investing wisely, we can protect and enhance the Gateway’s green spaces; establish the Gateway as a low or zero carbon region; learn how to use water and waste resources efficiently; and manage flood risk better.

Enterprising and innovative
We want to create the conditions for 180,000 more jobs in the Gateway, by helping existing businesses to thrive and grow as well as by encouraging new start-ups. The Regional Development Agencies will build better links between higher educators, other research centres and companies across the Gateway, to help key sectors, which look like they have good potential for growth, succeed. And we’ve identified four key places where we expect new jobs to be created – Canary Wharf, Stratford, Barking and Shellhaven (if final planning permission is granted).