

Paul Carter CBE Leader of the Council

---



The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP  
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local  
Government  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

County Hall  
Maidstone  
Kent ME14 1XQ  
Tel: 03000 410009

Sent via email: [james.brokenshire@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:james.brokenshire@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

14 December 2018

## TAKING FORWARD THE VISION OF THE THAMES ESTUARY 2050 GROWTH COMMISSION

Dear *James,*

When Sir John Armitt launched the Thames Estuary 2050 Growth Commission's report and recommendations last July you appropriately invited the leaders of the Estuary's local authorities to give their consideration which I trust will be incorporated into the Government's response to the report.

As a collection of local authorities from Newham to Southend and Bexley to Ramsgate, we enjoy a unique geography. There is considerable interdependency with London and historic trading access through the Estuary corridor to Europe and the rest of the world. We share your ambitions and opportunities for the area and, with the help and support of Government, we now have the potential to make an even greater contribution to growth and the national economy.

The Estuary vision of the 1970s has now largely been delivered with the regeneration of London's docklands transforming the riverside from Tower Bridge to Greenwich, with a previous Conservative government instrumental in laying the foundations for Canary Wharf. Similar vision and drive is now needed to realise the economic potential of the wider Estuary.

This 'can do' attitude and ethos of a new collaboration between national and local government, led by business and operating in a business-like manner, can now transform the area by attracting new investment, new employers and the building of new homes through well planned and well managed major projects.

We aim to build on the significant infrastructure that has already been provided: HS1 which connects London to Folkestone, Dover, Ramsgate and Margate; DP World London Gateway Port; Southend Airport. Through coastal regeneration, Southend and Margate are already undergoing a transformation. Sir John's report identified

[paul.carter@kent.gov.uk](mailto:paul.carter@kent.gov.uk)

18-1433

over 1,300 projects planned or underway across the Estuary area. We have made good progress.

We have now identified projects which will deliver an even bigger impact: the new Lower Thames Crossing, the extension of CrossRail to Ebbsfleet and a Creative Production Corridor running from Barking to Southend and Thurrock in Essex and a Canterbury and Margate in Kent. These are just three examples.

Having met as the Thames Gateway Strategic Group, we agreed that as a collective of councils we will put our shoulders to the wheel to deliver quality growth. But this is dependent on similar commitment and support from Government.

We plan to establish a Thames Estuary Growth and Prosperity Board, to be independently chaired – we hope the appointment can be made jointly by central and local government. The new board would be able to act more quickly, more flexibly and more responsively than the previous.

The Estuary is unavoidably complex, with 18 local authorities, two local enterprise partnerships and three sub-regional transport bodies. This new board will ensure that things don't fall between these cracks – for example, it will be central in ensuring that the enormous potential of the Estuary shines through in the Local Industrial Strategies for both London and for the South-east.

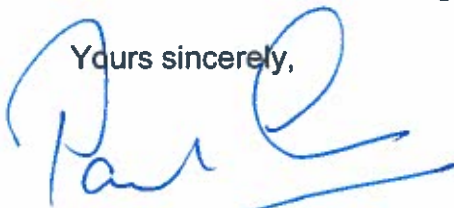
Governance will work with three areas defined rather than the five of the Commission's report where most decisions will be taken unless a matter for the Thames Estuary Growth and Prosperity Board. These areas will be central to the delivery of local industrial strategy within the Estuary.

To take this work to the next stage, we now need to engage with your officials. We need a team, drawn from Estuary partners and Whitehall, to bring the vision to life, with clear, effective and structured connections to government. We believe that this should be jointly resourced, by Estuary partners and by government, for an initial two-year period.

The Thames Estuary is a huge area with huge potential. Continuing growth is a fact of life – but we, collectively, want this to be "good growth" and we want the Estuary to be a motor of growth for the rest of the UK economy. We want to harness the unique opportunity that Sir John Armitt's final report highlights and to work with you to make that vision a reality.

We look forward to working with you to realise this vision.

Yours sincerely,



**Paul Carter, CBE**  
**Leader of Kent County Council**

## Thames Gateway Strategic Group – Membership and alternates

Thames Gateway Strategic Group – Membership	
<b>DCLG</b>	
	Minister with responsibility for the Thames Gateway
<b>Thames Gateway Kent Partnership</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Cllr Paul Carter <i>(Named alternate – Cllr Mark Dance)</i>	Leader, Kent County Council
Cllr Andrew Bowles <i>(Named alternate – Cllr Mike Cosgrove)</i>	Leader, Swale Borough Council (VC Thames Gateway Kent Partnership)
Cllr Rodney Chambers	Leader, Medway (Unitary) Council
Cllr David Turner	Leader, Gravesham Borough Council
<i>Cllr Jeremy Kite (Alternate for any LA rep unable to attend)</i>	<i>Leader, Dartford Borough Council</i>
Rob Bennett	Chairman, TGKP [Private Sector Representative]
<b>Thames Gateway South Essex</b>	
Cllr Gagan Mohindra	Essex County Council
Cllr John Lamb	Leader, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
Cllr Colin Riley	Leader, Castlepoint Borough Council
Cllr Robert Gledhill	Leader, Thurrock Council
Cllr Terry Cutmore	Leader, Rochford District Council
<i>Cllr Phil Turner (Alternate for any LA rep unable to attend)</i>	<i>Leader, Basildon Borough Council</i>
Kate Willard	Chair, TGSE [Private Sector Representative]
<b>London</b>	
Cllr Danny Thorpe <i>(Named alternate – Cllr Sizwe James)</i>	Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet, Royal Borough of Greenwich
Jules Pipe	Deputy Mayor, Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Greater London Authority
Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz <i>(Named alternate – Cllr Ken Clark)</i>	Mayor, London Borough of Newham
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Leader, London Borough of Bexley
<b>Local Enterprise Partnerships</b>	
Vacant	London LEP
Christian Brodie	Chair, South East LEP
<b>Also in attendance</b>	
Cllr Damian White/ <i>Cllr Osman Dervish (alternate)</i>	LB Havering
Cllr Darren Rodwell	LB Barking and Dagenham

