



# 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 Armit, 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:**



Tilbury port.



New homes at Woolwich Arsenal

- A Policy Framework, available in published form from the address below or on the web at [www.communities.gov.uk/thamesgateway](http://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.

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The partner organisations that have worked together to produce this Interim Plan are:

Basildon Renaissance Partnership  
 Bexley Regeneration Partnership  
 Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment  
 Communities & Local Government  
 East of England Development Agency  
 East of England Regional Assembly  
 English Partnerships  
 Environment Agency  
 Greater London Authority  
 Housing Corporation  
 Kent Thameside Delivery Board  
 London Development Agency

London Thames Gateway Development Corporation  
 Medway Renaissance Partnership  
 Renaissance Southend  
 South East England Development Agency  
 South East England Regional Assembly  
 Swale Forward  
 Thames Gateway Kent Partnership  
 Thames Gateway London Partnership  
 Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership  
 Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation  
 Woolwich Regeneration Agency

