

THAMES gateway

P A R T N E R S H I P

To: The Rt Hon Ruth Kelly MP
 Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
 Thames Gateway Delivery Unit
 2 Exchange Tower
 Harbour Exchange Square
 London
 E14 9 GS1

15 February 2007

Dear Secretary of State

Thames Gateway Bridge

I am writing to confirm Thames Gateway London Partnership's strong support for the Thames Gateway Bridge. TGLP articulates and coordinates the views of 11 local authorities in London Thames Gateway, the health and skills authorities and our 7 Higher Education Institutions. For many years TGLP has campaigned unanimously and vigorously for the Thames Gateway Bridge. We have pressed your predecessors strongly to make an early decision so the bridge can be built, enabling and supporting the regeneration so desperately needed in this part of London.

Apart from Bexley Council all other TGLP members remain strongly behind the bridge. There was a long public inquiry which exhaustively examined traffic modelling and impacts. Indeed, the public inquiry was extended at the specific request of Bexley Council to look further at traffic modelling and impacts. There is no case for reopening the inquiry.

It is proposed that the bridge incorporate a powerful and unique arrangement for a flexible tolling regime and a legal agreement for Borough involvement in operating it so that the tolls levied at TGB can be varied to meet the circumstances and needs which will arise from time to time including possible changes in tolling for other crossings. These arrangements are strongly supported by Transport for London. The Boroughs and TfL have set up a Boroughs Consultative Group through which changes in the bridge tolls and boundaries can be reviewed and changed at any time to reflect new circumstances that may arise. Bexley at present have chosen not to be members of this group but can join at any time. In the interim TfL has a unilateral arrangement with Bexley that covers the same matters. Clearly there is a need for cross river tolls to be looked at as a whole and we are confident that appropriate arrangements for this are already in place. Changes to Thames Gateway Bridge tolling can therefore be made in the light of real traffic patterns which will be monitored thoroughly, rather than on the basis of continually updated forecasts.

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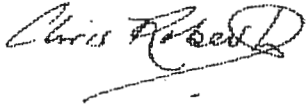
LB Barking & Dagenham LB Bexley City of London Dartford BC LB Greenwich LB Hackney LB Havering LB Lewisham LB Newham
 LB Redbridge LB Tower Hamlets LB Waltham Forest

London East Learning and Skills Council University of East London University of Greenwich London Metropolitan University Trinity Labza
 Ravensbourne College Goldsmiths College Queen Mary London Health Authorities

Thames Gateway London Partnership

We should like to stress, therefore, that proper arrangements are in place to make coordinated decisions on traffic impacts and future tolls. For the reasons expressed at the public inquiry we believe the Thames Gateway Bridge should be built as soon as practically possible.

Yours sincerely



Clr Chris Roberts
Chair, TGLP

Thames Gateway London Partnership

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