

Press release: Brokenshire backs 2050 vision for the Thames Estuary

- The government pledges support for the Thames Estuary 2050 Growth Commission's vision to create 1.3 million new jobs in the area by 2050
- £1 million committed to set up a new Thames Estuary Growth Board to drive economic growth in the region
- £4.85 million committed to support local partners to develop proposals for enhancing transport services between Abbey Wood and Ebbsfleet

A multi-million pound package of commitments to drive forward growth in the Thames Estuary has been announced today (25 March 2019) to create jobs, build new homes and boost local economic growth.

In its [response](#) to the Thames Estuary 2050 Growth Commission's 2018 report, the government backs the Commission's ambitious plans to create 1.3 million new jobs and generate an extra £190 billion for the local economy.

Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP also put forward a number of new measures as part of a wider government support to realise the 2050 growth vision for the Thames Estuary. These include a commitment to give:

- £1 million to establish a new Thames Estuary Growth Board oversee and drive economic growth plans for the area
- £4.85 million to support local partners to develop low-cost proposals for enhancing transport services between Abbey Wood and Ebbsfleet
- a Cabinet-level Ministerial Champion will be appointed to act as an advocate and critical friend for the region within government will also be appointed

Communities Secretary, the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, said:

The Thames Estuary has long been a gateway to the UK economy and has enormous untapped potential, which has the power to benefit those that live and work in the area.

Having considered the recommendations of the Thames Estuary 2050 Growth Commission, I have announced a number of steps we are taking to unlock an even brighter future for the Estuary's economy, marking the beginning of a new and bolder approach by this government to support the area.

The government's response sets out its priorities for the Thames Estuary, including the delivery of jobs and homes, addressing local skills challenges and agreeing fully-evidenced Local Industrial Strategies.

Encompassing East London, North Kent and South Essex, the Thames Estuary has

the potential to support growth right across the country. Served by international airports and seaports, it is home to an internationally-significant financial services cluster at Canary Wharf and is achieving huge success as a cultural and creative powerhouse.

Despite its strengths, the economic growth is slower and unemployment levels are higher in the Thames Estuary compared to the country's averages. That is why in 2016 the Thames Estuary 2050 Growth Commission was tasked with developing an ambitious vision for growth in the area.

Grateful for the expertise and independent challenge provided by the Commission, the government welcomed the [Commission's report](#), published on 25 June 2018. After considering its recommendations in detail, the government has now [responded](#) with its commitments to the Estuary, which marks an important first step towards delivering the Commission's vision.

The government worked with local partners in preparing its response to set out its measures boost the region.