

## **Cross River Partnership launches River Freight Pilot Part Two Scaling up: Monthly bulk deliveries on the Thames**

[Cross River Partnership](#) (CRP), a non-profit and impartial partnership organisation, has recently launched the **River Freight Pilot Part Two – Scaling up: Monthly bulk deliveries on the Thames**.

The trial is the second edition of CRP's [River Freight Pilot](#), which operated one delivery per week, for six weeks, over the summer of 2022. The initial river freight pilot aimed to demonstrate the potential of river freight as a viable and sustainable logistics solution. Goods were delivered on the Thames into central London which resulted in a **78% saving in NOx and an 88% saving in CO<sub>2</sub>** (in comparison to traditional road-based delivery methods).

This year's six-month trial is focused on the monthly **bulk delivery of goods** to make river freight more economically viable for the suppliers involved in the trial, and there is an ambition for the service to become a permanent feature of their future logistics operations. The trial is a collaboration between [Absolutely Courier](#), [Antalis](#), [CPBS Marine Services](#), [Complete](#), [Transport for London River Services](#), [Mayflower Washroom Solutions](#), [The Northbank BID](#) and the [Port of London Authority](#).

Goods are loaded at TfL's Woolwich Ferry, Royal Borough of Greenwich, and travel into central London via the Thames to Temple Pier in [City of Westminster](#). Cargo bikes, operated by Absolutely Courier, are then used to deliver goods from Temple Pier to their final destinations. **4 vans** are taken off the road per river freight journey.

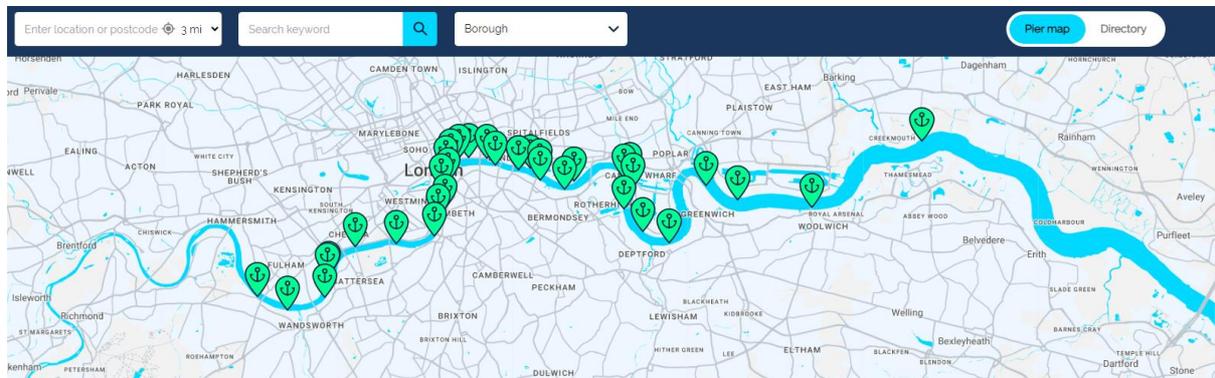
The dates for each monthly delivery have already been agreed and will be taking place on:  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June (3<sup>rd</sup> run)  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July (4<sup>th</sup> run)  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August (5<sup>th</sup> run)  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September (6<sup>th</sup> run)

The River Freight Pilot Part Two forms part of **CRP's wider activities to encourage sustainable logistics across London**. This includes the development of rail freight and walking freight initiatives, helping to improve London's air quality and supporting CRP's vision to make London a better place to live, work and visit.

CRP has created several resources that provide The Northbank BID's businesses with information on how to get involved with the River Freight Pilot Part Two, including onboarding criteria and next steps. These include presentations from The Northbank BID, Mayflower and Absolutely Courier. You can find a Q&A session about the scheme [here](#).

CRP has also launched [CRP's Thames Directory to encourage businesses to consider using the river for freight in London](#). This interactive web tool provides information about utilising The River Thames for freight. Businesses can use the map to view information about London's river infrastructure (piers and wharfs), whilst the Directory provides details on

vessel operators and ultra-low emission (cargo bikes and electric vehicles) last mile couriers, which can help to deliver river freight operations.



*CRP's Thames Directory*

CRP has also secured £1,000,000 of Air Quality grant funding from **central government department Defra** to deliver the [Smarter Greener Logistics \(SGL\)](#) project. From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, SGL aims to build on the achievements of the CALL programme and minimise the impact of freight on noise, air quality, traffic and pavement space across London.

Alison Gregory, Head of Placemaking and Sustainability, The Northbank BID, said “As the Northbank is a river district, with it’s boundary extending directly to the river Thames, delivering via the river just makes sense. This hugely collaborative pilot is an important element of the BID’s sustainability work and will help organisations in our area reduce carbon, air pollution and congestion.”

Fiona Coull, CRP Senior Programme Manager, said “CRP’s River Freight Pilot Part Two aims to make river freight deliveries more economically viable for the original businesses involved. This is really important to enable the transition to more permanent change. We hope that by focussing on bulk deliveries, we can cut down operational costs whilst continuing to ensure air quality and congestion benefits of the trial. This supports CRP’s overall vision of making London a better place to live, work and visit.”

Are you looking to improve your businesses sustainability credentials whilst also having a positive impact on local air quality and congestion? If you are located within 1.5 miles of Temple Pier, and could accommodate bulk deliveries of cleaning and / or office supplies, then please get in contact to see how you can get involved in this trial today.

For more information, please contact CRP Senior Programme Manager Fiona Coull to get involved in the trial ([fionacoull@crossriverpartnership.org](mailto:fionacoull@crossriverpartnership.org)).

**ENDS**

**June 2023**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

CRP's Thames Directory: <https://crossriverpartnership.org/thamesdirectory/>

CRP's Thames Directory Snapshot: <https://crossriverpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/CALL-Snapshot-Thames-Directory-1.pdf>

Business Engagement Q&A: <https://youtu.be/CbS8eTRec9Y>

River Freight Pilot Part Two Reel: <https://youtube.com/shorts/kucXvHj9dok>

River Freight Pilot Part Two Snapshot: <https://crossriverpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/River-Freight-Pilot-Part-Two-CALL-Snapshot.pdf>

### **Cross River Partnership**

[Cross River Partnership](#) (CRP)'s mission is to deliver collaboratively solutions that make London fairer, greener and safer.

### **The Port of London Authority (PLA)**

Covering 95 miles of the tidal River Thames, the Port of London Authority (PLA) works to keep commercial and leisure users safe, protects and enhances the environment and promotes the use of the river for trade and travel. As a trust port, the PLA has no shareholders and operates for the benefit of customers and stakeholders, now and in the future.

Last year, the PLA, launched its Thames Vision 2050 strategy. The UK's leading port, central to the nation's economy, with Net Zero emissions. A clean river, free of pollution and rubbish, supporting more sport, passengers and freight. A resilient Estuary, adapting to climate change and richer in wildlife. A more diverse Thames, providing jobs, learning and enjoyment to the whole community, and always, everyone, staying safe.

### **The Northbank BID**

The Northbank Business Improvement District (BID) is in London's West End, bringing together the business-led community within Trafalgar Square, Strand, Aldwych and surrounding areas.

### **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

Funding for the Clean Air Logistics for London (CALL) project comes from the Government's [Air Quality Grant programme](#). Awarded annually, the grants help local authorities across England develop and implement measures to benefit schools, businesses and communities and reduce the impact of air pollution on people's health.

Image to accompany Press Release (if desired by publications)

