

**CROSS RIVER PARTNERSHIP RELEASE NEW CLEAN AIR VILLAGES GUIDE FOR BUSINESSES
'GETTING STARTED WITH RIVER FREIGHT'**

[Cross River Partnership](#) (CRP), a non-profit and impartial partnership organisation, is excited to announce the launch of new report '[Getting Started with River Freight: A Guide for Businesses](#)', a document aimed at being the first port of call for any business looking to use the tidal Thames for freight.

According to recent research by [Centre for London](#), around 450 million packages were delivered in London during 2020. That's about one per week for every Londoner, and this is likely to double by 2030. With the River Thames being by far the widest and most traffic-free way into Central London, river freight can act as a vital tool for reducing road traffic.

The comprehensive guide includes information on:

- The opportunities and challenges of river freight
- How to set up your own river freight project
- DHL's ongoing river freight project
- A glossary of useful terminology and groups on the Thames
- Useful contacts to begin to use the tidal Thames for freight

In terms of setting up a river freight project, the guide provides advice on logistical considerations, including which goods are best to carry by river and advice on facilitating zero-emission first and last-mile delivery. It also contains information and relevant contacts in order for smaller businesses to partner with others to begin a river freight project, and all of the groups and organisations who can help to make a river freight project a reality.

The case study into DHL finds that river freight is more reliable, faster and has also garnered huge interest from clients and public figures. The pilot is also helping DHL to work towards their corporate environmental and social goals.

The guide brings together expertise from many groups who are integral to the use of the tidal Thames for freight. Much of the information is through interviews conducted by CRP with [Port of London Authority](#), [Transport for London](#), [DHL Express](#), [Livetts](#), [CEVA Logistics](#) and [Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust](#).

James Trimmer, Director of Planning and Environment, [Port of London Authority](#) said "River freight can be a vital part of London's future. With an increased emphasis on sustainability and the need for just-in-time deliveries in today's society, people are beginning to see the value of delivering goods on the river. CRP's guide and the advice and contacts within it, including the PLA, will help businesses thinking of using the tidal Thames with their first steps towards river freight."

Ben Hiles, Senior Director for Infrastructure, [DHL Express UK](#) said "Our river freight service started off as a piece of blue sky thinking about how we could improve efficiency and reduce emissions in London. The great support we have had from both the Port of London Authority and Transport for London has been critical in launching the service. Guides such as this one will be incredibly helpful to other businesses looking to make a splash in this area."



David Ebbrell, Project Officer at [Cross River Partnership](#), said *“River freight can be a vital piece of the puzzle in reducing emissions from road traffic and making London’s air cleaner. This guide simplifies the processes and potential obstacles for businesses who want to use the tidal Thames and highlights the benefits it can bring. It will also provide a useful contact list of people and groups who will be invaluable in facilitating a successful river freight project.”*

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Link: <https://crossriverpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Getting-Started-with-River-Freight-A-Guide-for-Businesses-3.pdf>

Cross River Partnership

[Cross River Partnership](#) (CRP) is a partnership delivering environmental, economic and community-focused projects. We support public, private and voluntary organisations to address creatively challenges around Air Quality, Transport, Placemaking and Wellbeing.

We are experts in delivering positive change. CRP has a history of over 27 years of achievements, spanning public, private, voluntary and community sectors.

Clean Air Villages 4

CRP's [Clean Air Villages 4 \(CAV4\)](#) project is a [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs \(Defra\)](#) funded project led by [Westminster City Council](#). CRP is working with 26 project partners to improve air quality across different London 'villages', where both air pollution and population density levels are high. These locations reflect the Greater London Authority's Air Quality Focus Areas. The CAV4 freight solutions implemented incorporate Consolidation, Distribution, Mode, Technology and Policy.

