

**CROSS RIVER PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHES CLEAN AIR VILLAGES  
RIVER FREIGHT PILOT ALONG THE THAMES**

[Cross River Partnership](#) (CRP), a non-profit and impartial partnership organisation, is excited to launch a river freight pilot along the River Thames as part of the Defra-funded [Clean Air Villages 4](#) project on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July.

CRP is working with the Port of London Authority, The Northbank BID, GPS Marine, Complete, iRecycle, Mayflower, Antalis and London's pier owners.

In a new era of opportunity for the river, bringing goods into central London via the Thames is proven to emit less than half of the carbon of road transport, improving local air quality. With deliveries into the capital set to hit one billion per year by 2030, spurred on by changing shopping habits, river freight has the potential to reduce both congestion and pollution in London. The pilot aims to assess how goods delivered by the river and handled at Woods Quay (out of trading hours), located at Embankment, can be incorporated within urban logistics.

Businesses in The Northbank BID and surrounding areas are being invited to order office and cleaning supplies from participating suppliers during a six-week pilot period. Goods will travel down the Thames from Dartford and Woolwich, arriving into Woods Quay, located on Embankment, next to Waterloo Bridge. Through this pilot, businesses and suppliers will work together to consolidate deliveries, helping London's economy and freight industry.

The pilot is also aiming to collect general waste, which will be taken to Walbrook Wharf and be taken along the river to Belvedere for disposal.

The last-mile journey for these goods will be undertaken by zero-emission transport, from London's piers onto the roads of central London. The river freight industry is also exploring alternative fuels for vessels.

CRP Project Manager Kate Fenton said "The Thames provides a direct route into London and therefore an alternative to using our congested and polluted roads. The Defra Air Quality Grant has enabled this exciting collaboration and the opportunity to showcase river freight to businesses. Understanding and sharing how to setup such operations will help other businesses navigate river freight more easily. An increase in use of the river for freight will improve local air quality in London. Huge thanks to all those working hard to get these goods onto the water."

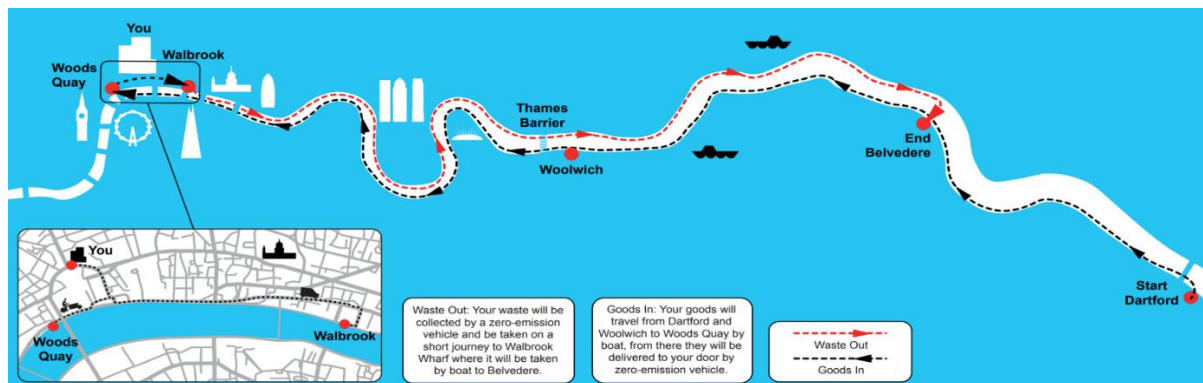
James Trimmer, Director of Planning and Development at the Port of London Authority, said "London businesses' office supplies, such as stationery, are far better transported by river than ending up stationary on the capital's congested roads. This pilot is set to further unlock the tidal Thames's huge potential to improve air quality, by reducing road traffic in London,

and help on the river's journey towards Net Zero. It's another win-win for the Thames, London and the environment.

Please see other CRP Clean Air Villages 4 reports and related guidance:

- [Light Freight: Design Solutions for Thames Freight Infrastructure](#)
- [River Freight Monitoring: Butler's Wharf and Dartford Pier](#)
- [Getting Started with River Freight: A Guide for Businesses](#)

For more information about Clean Air Villages 4 and to take part in this river freight trial, please contact CRP Project Manager Kate Fenton – [katefenton@crossriverpartnership.org](mailto:katefenton@crossriverpartnership.org)



**ENDS**

**July 2022**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### **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.

### **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.

### **Port of London Authority**

The PLA oversees the tidal Thames, home to the UK's largest port and busiest inland waterway. It has just launched a consultation on [Thames Vision 2050](#), the updated development plan for the river, charting a future as Net Zero trading hub, destination and natural haven.

### **The Northbank BID**

The Northbank Business Improvement District (BID) is located in London's West End, bringing together the business-led community within Trafalgar Square, Strand, Aldwych and surrounding areas. Together, in a public-private partnership, the BID are revitalising the historic and much-loved area to increase safety, sustainability and awareness of what is on offer.

Image to accompany press release:

