

## **Cross River Partnership Courier Fair Event Bridges Gap Between Couriers and Public Sector**

[Cross River Partnership](#) (CRP) hosted a first-of-its-kind Courier Fair on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024, to encourage greater collaboration and partnership working between zero emission couriers delivering across London, and London's local authorities, Business Improvement Districts and strategic agencies.

The event, held at the University of Westminster, provided an informal forum to enable unstructured conversations between couriers and local authority, BID and strategic agency officers, to share opportunities to collaborate, partner, discuss vacant or underutilised industrial land, and explore policy and planning support.

The CRP Courier Fair has been made possible through [Smarter Greener Logistics \(SGL\)](#), a [Defra](#)-funded project led by Westminster City Council in collaboration with 26 project partners. The project aims to minimise the impact of freight on noise, air quality, traffic and pavement space in London by making improvements across 15 London boroughs and four London Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).

CRP have hosted this event following feedback from zero emission couriers and the public sector that suggests a closer, collaborative and partnership-focussed relationship would be beneficial for London and its' people's health. This critical bridge that CRP has provided can foster more opportunities to make the zero-emission sector thrive, at a time of huge growth and the need to address air quality.

Freight vehicles make up 15% of London's total vehicle miles but emit one quarter of London's overall transport carbon emissions, and with continued changes to shopping behaviour that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, the number of parcels delivered in London is expected to double by 2030. Overcoming this challenge therefore requires a collaborative, joined-up approach across London with the public and private sector.

The event was opened by Councillor Mary Durcan, Chair of the City of London Corporation's Health and Wellbeing Board, Chair of the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee, and Cross River Partnership Board Public Sector Co-Chair who said:

"I'd like to thank Cross River Partnership for setting up this Courier Fair, bringing together logistics operators big and small in London with those in local authorities, business improvement districts and strategic agencies to support each other to help make logistics more sustainable, efficient and collaborative. These issues can't be solved by any one organisation alone. It needs all of us in this room to come together.

I'm really excited to speak to the logistics operators and couriers here today to learn more about the work you do, and how we can support them in the City of London so they can deliver sustainability and zero emission to our residents and businesses. This event will lead to lots of great conversations and help to create more partnership working with the public and private sectors in London."

**Councillor Mary Durcan, Chair of the City of London Corporation's Health and Wellbeing Board, Chair of the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee, and Cross River Partnership Board Public Sector Co-Chair**

“Cross River Partnership is delighted to host this Courier Fair, bringing together couriers that deliver across London with officers and leaders from local authorities, Business Improvement Districts and strategic agencies, through the Smarter Greener Logistics programme. Having listened to feedback from our partners and those delivering parcels and packages across London, there has been a real desire and need to work collaboratively to support more zero emission deliveries across London.”

**Ross Phillips, Sustainable Transport Manager, Cross River Partnership**

[Please see the Courier Fair post-event resources produced from the event.](#)

**ENDS  
February 2024**

## **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.

### **Smarter Greener Logistics**

[Smarter Greener Logistics \(SGL\)](#) is a [Defra](#)-funded project led by [Westminster City Council](#) in collaboration with 26 project partners. The project aims to minimise the impact of freight on noise, air quality, traffic and pavement space in London by making improvements across 15 London boroughs and four London Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). SGL will build on the success of CRP's [Clean Air Logistics for London](#) (CALL).

SGL 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.

### **Defra**

[Defra](#) is responsible for improving and protecting the environment. Defra aim to grow a green economy and sustain thriving rural communities. Defra also support the UK's world-leading food, farming and fishing industries.

## Further Information

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## Images to accompany press release

