

CROSS RIVER PARTNERSHIP WINS DECARBONISING TRANSPORT AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE WATERLOO FREIGHT HUB TRIAL

[Cross River Partnership](#) (CRP) are delighted to announce it has been awarded the Best Freight & Logistics Decarbonisation Award at the [Decarbonising Transport Awards 2026](#), recognising the pioneering [Waterloo Freight Hub Trial](#) and its innovative approach to sustainable freight.

The Waterloo Freight Hub Phase 1 Trial transformed an underutilised 1,800 sq ft arch beneath Waterloo Station into an effective urban logistics hub. Running from March to July 2025, the trial showcased the hubs huge potential to support cleaner air, lower emissions and more efficient last mile deliveries in London.

Throughout the course of the trial, over 20,000 parcels were delivered, with deliveries shifted from polluting vans to electrically-assisted cargo bikes. Emissions savings have also been significant, with CRP's internal emissions calculator demonstrating savings of over 2,500kg of CO₂ throughout the trial, which is equivalent to CO₂ emissions savings from 51 football pitch-sized forest fires.

With road freight being the single biggest contributor to London's air pollution, the reduction in the number of polluting vans on the streets has led to direct improvements to public health, addressing one of London's most urgent urban challenges.

The project involved cross-sector collaboration led by CRP, alongside [Network Rail](#), the [London Borough of Lambeth](#), the [Department for Transport](#), [London and Continental Railways](#), [Delivery Mates](#), [Steer](#), [Intermodality](#) and Waterloo Station. Funding for the development of the project has come from [Defra](#), through CRP's Air Quality Funded programme, [Smarter Greener Logistics](#), and [Impact on Urban Health](#).

This award follows our recent success at the CiTTi Awards 2025 and reflects a growing recognition of the project and our bold vision to reimagine how freight moves through the capital. This Phase 1 trial will serve as a proof of concept to scale and adapt the hub to meet future ecommerce demand and change how goods are moved across Britain.

The long-term vision for the project is to develop a much larger, multi-operator, and multi-modal sustainable freight hub, operating middle mile deliveries into Waterloo Station by rail, road and river, and outbound deliveries by low emission vehicles such as electrically-assisted cargo bikes. Studies by transport consultants [Steer](#) and [Intermodality](#) suggest the hub could generate significant economic, social and environmental benefits through rail and road-fed deliveries, serving approximately 3.5 million residents and 200,000 businesses across inner London.

The Waterloo Freight Hub Trial is a pioneering last mile logistics project tackling key urban air quality and freight-related challenges through sustainable innovation and partnership working. CRP are excited that this is being recognised and thank the Decarbonising Transport Awards for their support.

Ross Phillips, CRP's Sustainable Transport Manager said: "This award is a testament to the dedication of all our partners and the strength of cross-sector collaboration. The trial proves

that transforming underused urban space into sustainable logistics hubs can deliver major benefits for people, businesses and the environment, and we are delighted to be working with such a strong network of public and private partners. We're eager to take this vision forward into the next phase of a Multi-Modal Waterloo Freight Hub.”

March 2026

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITOR

The Waterloo Freight Hub Trial transformed underutilised space at Waterloo Station into a one-of-a-kind freight hub delivering environmental, social, and economic benefits across London.

The 6-month Trial saw electrically-assisted cargo bikes deliver parcels across London to residents and businesses from an arch space in the undercroft of Waterloo Station. Parcels arrived in the morning by van, before being cross-docked, sorted and sent by cargo bike to complete the final leg of the journey.

This pioneering project could future-proof London with increased ecommerce deliveries, improved productivity, air quality and the health of Londoners moving around the city.

The trial supports the delivery of Defra's [clean air targets](#), the Department for Transport's [decarbonisation plans](#), Network Rail's [Net Zero 2050 target](#) and the London Borough of Lambeth's [Climate Action Plan](#), which includes a Net Zero target by 2030.

- [Waterloo Freight Hub Trial Evaluation Report](#)
- [Waterloo Freight Hub: Long Term Vision](#)
- [On Track for Sustainable Logistics: Express Freight Market Analysis](#)
- [On Track for Sustainable Logistics: Waterloo Freight Hub Impact Study](#)
- [On track for sustainable logistics: Integrating Rail Freight into London's deliveries](#)
- [Smarter Greener Logistics](#)

Cross River Partnership (CRP)

Cross River Partnership is a partnership delivering impactful environmental, economic and community focused projects. We support public, private and community organisations with expert guidance, collaboration and innovation. We believe in a fair and equitable transition towards good and green growth in London.

Network Rail

Network Rail is a public sector arm's length body which owns, operates, maintains and develops the railway infrastructure in England, Scotland and Wales. Network Rail's role is to run a safe, reliable and efficient rail network and our vision is to deliver a simpler, better, greener railway for our customers and communities.

London Borough of Lambeth

London Borough of Lambeth is one of the most vibrant and diverse boroughs in London covering Brixton, Streatham, Clapham and Waterloo. The London Borough of Lambeth provide services such as planning, social work, housing and schools to 303,000 residents and hundreds of businesses.

Department for Transport

The Department for Transport is a UK government department which supports the transport network which helps UK Businesses and gets people and goods traveling around the country. The Department for Transport plan and invest in transport infrastructure to keep the UK on the move.

Platform4

Platform4 is a new property company created from the merger of London & Continental Railways Ltd and Network Rail's Property Development business. Its purpose is to lead, invest in and enable regeneration on brownfield railway land, bringing together property, infrastructure and operational rail expertise in one place.

DEFRA

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is the UK government department responsible for policy and regulation on the environment, food production and standards, agriculture, fisheries and rural communities in England.

Delivery Mates

Delivery Mates is the trading name of OTL Omega Telematics and Logistics Limited. The company started in 2013 to provide innovative final mile delivery solutions, specialising in providing flexible, compliant, reliable, and cost-effective delivery service, which continues today. DM was one of the first companies to allow its customers to choose to operate last-mile deliveries using a range of electric vehicle types, EV Vans and eCargo Bikes. Their mission is to become a leader in sustainable urban logistics, applying sustainable and innovative growth to business and society.

Steer

Steer are a global consultancy specialising in the critical services and infrastructure that make our world work, connecting people, places and economies.

Intermodality

Intermodality provide real-world experience in rail and intermodal transport. They can assist with design planning, finance and procurement, development, marketing and operations.

Impact on Urban Health

Impact on Urban are committed to achieving healthy equity by helping urban areas become healthier places to live. They are part of the Guys & St Thomas Foundation, a charitable foundation.

For more information please contact CRP Sustainable Transport Manager, Ross Phillips (rossphillips@crossriverpartnership.org) or CRP Director, Susannah Wilks (susannahwilks@crossriverpartnership.org).

Image to Accompany Press Release

