

PRESS RELEASE

4th January 2011

STEERING GROUP CALLS FOR INTEGRATED APPROACH FOR THE THAMES ESTUARY

The Thames Estuary Steering Group that was convened by the Mayor of London has today (January 4th 2011) published its independent report on the Thames Estuary and has called for more support into developing an integrated approach for the area.

The [report](#) has stated that more research is needed to develop a long term plan for the Thames Estuary which should encompass plans for flood management, transport, new forms of low carbon energy production as well as water and waste management. The report provides a valuable factual and analytical background to any consideration to be given to a potential new airport in the Greater South-East.

The Steering Group, chaired by Sir David King, the Director of the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment at the University of Oxford and former Chief Scientific Adviser to HM Government, considered the wider context and the potential for uses of the Thames Estuary. Their work looked at the basis for an integrated approach for long term economic prosperity, which could maximise the return on investment of private finance and provide co-funding of particular projects in the Estuary.

Sir David King said that The Thames Estuary was of strategic importance to the UK economy, and in particular had the Greater South East's largest capacity for growth as well as much of its strategic infrastructure. He said that Investment in the estuary is needed to support London's international competitiveness and its continued status as a leading world city.

"It is critical, for an area of such importance, that we not only develop an integrated approach but develop a long term plan for the Thames Estuary that helps the Government take evidence based and informed decisions on the area".

"As we come out of the economic downturn it is critical that we make the right decisions, not only to create long term economic prosperity, but also ensure that the UK is fit for purpose as we move through the 21st century, and that we can meet the challenges we will face, through the need for better and more efficient transportation, low carbon energy sources and the need to adapt to climate change".

The Thames Estuary Steering Group highlighted the following issues in the report:

- An acknowledgement by HM Government of the critical importance of getting investment in the Estuary right.
- Support from government in our efforts to generate private funding of the research and investment appraisal necessary to identify the most effective investment mix.
- Support for an integrated approach across departmental boundaries to prepare plans for:

- o Growth
- o Flood management
- o Transport
- o Energy
- o Water and waste

· Commitment to support inward investment by effectively promoting the Thames Estuary in the UK and abroad as the key development and growth area in the region.

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NOTES:

The joint and individual reports can be found at www.testrad.co.uk.

Members of the Thames Estuary Steering Group:

- Sir David King Chair
- Kit Malthouse AM
- Douglas Oakervee CBE
- The Rt. Hon. Nick Raynsford MP
- Sir Terry Farrell
- Bridget Rosewell
- David Quarmby CBE
- Dr. Graham Plant
- Alexander Johnston
- Baroness Valentine
- The Hon. Bernard Jenkin MP

The report has been informed by the work of a number of consultants, convened under the auspices of the Institution of Civil Engineers following a meeting of principals in February 2010.

The Steering Group are very grateful for this support and the work of AECOM, Atkins, Halcrow, HR Wallingford, Mott Macdonald and Scott Wilson. The joint and individual reports can be found at www.testrad.co.uk. The Nichols Group has provided project management support throughout, including to the main report which has been drafted by Testrad and designed and illustrated by Terry Farrell and Partners.