



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

To all MPs in England

Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP

*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and
Local Government*

**Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local
Government**

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Dear Colleague,

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THAMES ESTUARY 2050 GROWTH COMMISSION

I am writing to you to outline this Government's ambitious vision for North Kent, South Essex and East London – the Thames Estuary – ahead of the publication this coming weekend of our response to the Thames Estuary 2050 Growth Commission.

Comparable to the Midlands Engine, Northern Powerhouse and Oxford-Cambridge Arc, the Thames Estuary is a major opportunity area with the potential to support growth right across the country.

The Commission set out a number of priorities, spanning housing, transport, environment and broader economic growth. In our response, I will lay out further commitments from this Government to support the delivery of the Commission's vision, including:

- £1 million to establish a new Chair-led strategic Growth Board, to drive economic growth in the area;
- appointing a Cabinet-level Ministerial Champion, who will act as an advocate and critical friend for the region within government;
- £4.85 million to support local partners to develop low-cost proposals for enhancing transport services between Abbey Wood and Ebbsfleet, subject to suitable housing ambition;
- exploring the potential for at least two new locally-led development corporations;
- launching a strategic communications campaign to promote the Thames Estuary as a great place to live, work and do business;
- funding for the creation of masterplans and feasibility studies of key sites in the Thames Estuary Creative Production Corridor;
- bringing together relevant authorities to collaborate on the Thames Estuary 2100 Plan, to make sure that growth in the Estuary is sustainable and resilient; and
- supporting a study to develop options and consult the local area on a Great Thames Park, as announced at Autumn Budget 2018.

My officials and I are very grateful for the great support we have received. The ambition and passion of local leaders and groups is clear to see, and we look forward to working with partners to deliver the Commission's vision and build prosperous communities across the Thames Estuary.

RT HON JAMES BROKENSHERE MP