

THAMES AND LONDON WATERWAYS FORUM

PEOPLE AND PLACES WORKING GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Context

1. The Mayor of London has set up the Thames and London Waterways Forum to advise him on and address strategic waterway issues in London. The Forum has brought together the London Waterways Commission and the River Concordat.
2. The Mayor regards London's waterways as multifunctional assets and will promote their protection and use. Beyond transport, they provide recreation corridors; green infrastructure; a series of diverse and important habitats; a unique backdrop for important heritage sites, landscapes, views, cultural and community activities; as well as drainage, flood and water management functions. The waterways provide valuable habitats and open spaces with benefits for the environment as well as the health and well-being of Londoners. It is also a place for Londoners to develop skills and take up careers.
3. The People and Places Working Group is one of three working groups, which will take its steer from and report to the Steering Group of the Forum. Its purpose is to drive forward the delivery of relevant policies in the London Plan, the London Environment Strategy, the Mayor's Transport Strategy and the Port of London Authority's Thames Vision.

Remit

4. The working group will
 - identify opportunities to improve the use of the River Thames and waterways for culture and heritage, sports, recreation, education and skills as well as environment activities
 - identify opportunities to increase access to the river and London's waterways safely

Responsibilities

5. The working group will
 - advise the Steering Group on culture and heritage, sports, recreation, education and skills as well as environment activities related to London's waterways (members will draw on but not represent their personal perspective)
 - identify and escalate issues that require strategic consideration by the Mayor, and awareness by Government, industry, communities and/or regulatory bodies
 - deliver reports, findings and recommendations as directed by the Steering Group
 - identify relevant research, case studies and good practice
 - work with other strategic groupings to ensure that activities are coordinated and implemented efficiently
 - co-ordinate and agree documents for sign-off by the Steering Group (including key recommendations and decisions as appropriate)

Working arrangements

6. The working group meets up to four times a year. Meetings are not held in public. Meeting agendas will be circulated at least one week in advance of each meeting. A brief note will be circulated after meetings and published on the GLA's website: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/transport/thames-and-london-waterways-forum>.
7. Annex A sets out current priorities and Annex B the group's membership. The GLA, TfL and the PLA will regularly/jointly review these in agreement with the Steering Group.

Annex A

Current Priorities

The working group considered a range of priorities for the Mayoral term and beyond. Overarching all of these is a narrative of publicly promoting and communicating key messages about the Thames and inland waterways.

The priorities for 2018 will be:

1. Thames Path

- Join up the Thames Path from source to sea and provide connectivity, through signage, of the communities alongside

2. Sports and Recreation

- Greater participation of sport and recreation on alongside the waterways through new or improved sports and recreation facilities that meet local community needs
- Develop campaigns around major sporting events on the Thames to promote sport and recreation on London's waterways to wider audiences

3. Education, Skills and Learning

- Campaigns to raise awareness of careers on the river, particularly for young people, and to strengthen the skills base of those working on the river

Longer term priorities:

1. Culture and Heritage

- a) If the Borough of Culture is riparian, work with the Borough of Culture to focus investment opportunities on untapped potential of existing river cultural activity.

2. Placemaking

- a) Pilot improvement works to an existing riverside public space

3. Education, Skills and Learning

- a) Enhanced London Curriculum on waterways – to provide a river-based skills offer from school through to adulthood.
- b) Link up with Team London to create a trained London Waterways volunteering network

4. Water Safety

- a) Bring together bridge owners and develop a unified campaign to reduce drownings including suicides.

5. Environment

- a) Reduce litter in the waterways

Annex B

Membership

The Working Group includes representatives from the organisations listed below. Other organisations may be invited to attend specific meetings as and when required. The GLA, TfL and the PLA will regularly/jointly review membership in agreement with the Steering Group.

PLA/GLA will circulate agreed items to discuss at future meetings and invite group members to register, so that participation for each meeting can be managed. The PLA will appoint the chair of the Working Group.

Port of London Authority appointment (Chair)
Transport for London
Greater London Authority Sports (to attend when required)
Greater London Authority Culture (to attend when required)
Greater London Authority Regeneration (to attend when required)
Greater London Authority Transport (to attend when required)
Greater London Authority Environment (to attend when required)
Greater London Authority Planning (to attend when required)
Canal and River Trust
Royal Borough of Greenwich
City of London
London Borough of Hounslow
London Borough of Richmond
Environment Agency
Cross River Partnership
London Councils
London First
London and Partners
London Riverside