

Thames Estuary 2100

The TE2100 Plan (background)

- Published in November 2012, the Thames Estuary 2100 (TE2100) plan was “developed to provide strategic direction for the continued management of tidal flood risks through until the end of the century”.
- Tidal flood risk: Thames Estuary is subject to a combination of freshwater flows from Teddington Weir (West London) and tidal flows (North Sea). Therefore, the Thames Estuary has an average daily rise and fall of water levels by 7m. When a low pressure ‘depression’ system enters the North Sea region then the Thames Estuary is prone to sea surges which can further increase the water level by 1-3m. This can cause major flooding when normal tides are higher.
- Future: to be adaptable for changes in climate, people and property.
- Government committed £9 billion to create thousands of new homes and jobs in the Thames Gateway (60km stretch from London Docklands to Southend, Essex and Sheerness, Kent).
- First Phase (The First 25 Years, from 2010 to 2035): increasing natural capital of the Thames and protects from flood risk, and enhancing the value of the river to society.
 1. Continue Maintenance.
 2. Create new habitats, safeguard spaces for flood management.
 3. Preparation of/ updating local strategic and spatial plans to support TE2100.
- October 2016: publication of the first 5-year monitoring review.
- Offer from the EA to support the implementation through a riverside strategy approach.

Riverside Strategy Approach

- The Riverside Strategy Approach aims *“to ensure that future changes to the riverside take place in a planned and integrated way which maximise the potential environmental, social, cultural and economic benefit”*.
- The Approach aims to bring forward new standalone document(s) if appropriate, but also feed into masterplans, planning performance agreements, marine plans and green space strategies.

In line with the Riverside Strategy Approach, new development along the Thames should ensure:

1. Flood defences are raised to the recommended height.
2. Development is setback from the river, in order to provide space for maintenance, future raising of defences, people, and the environment.
3. Land needed now or in the future for flood defences is identified and available when required.
4. Development is not negatively impacted by flood defences (now and as a result of future raising) through holistic and innovative design.
5. Development is not encroaching into the river, ensuring no loss of flood storage capacity and negative impacts upon important estuarine habitats.
6. The riverside best serves the needs of the communities and the environment, providing integrated environmental, cultural, social and economic benefits.
7. Local communities and river users have high quality and un-interrupted access to the riverside with a Thames Path running continuously along the Estuary.

8. Intertidal habitat across the Estuary is created where appropriate.
9. The Thames and its riverside environments provide increased natural capital and supports local authorities' growth ambitions to be delivered in a sustainable way.

What the EA will do

- Advice: Current works (TEAM2100), future flood defence increases (height etc), land requirements etc.
- Provide a facilitation role to support development and implementation of strategies.
- Help co-ordinate conversations between councils
- Seek and create opportunities for partnerships.

What is needed from EPOA?

A cross-estuary approach with developers and local councils working together is needed to implement the 2100 plan and Riverside Strategy Approach.

Kent Planning Officers Group and Essex Planning Officers Group have been approached to take things forward in their geographies, and to support the joint approach.

It is proposed that a sub group of EPOA be convened to identify, discuss and implement the Riverside Strategy Approach. Subgroup made up of senior policy and development officers as follows:

SELEP, Environment Agency, Thurrock, Castle Point, Basildon, Southend, Rochford and Essex County Council (LLFA or planning role) and representatives from Essex Developers Group.

The initial subgroup meeting should take place in June, to allow a lead in time for arrangements, papers etc. Follow up meeting schedule to be agreed after first meeting to reflect outcomes.

Useful to report outcomes/agreements to Planning Portfolio Holders meeting and main EPOA in June.