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**Subject:** Regulation 14 consultation Isle of Dogs Neighbourhood Plan - PLA Response  
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FAO: Andrew Wood

Dear Andrew

Thank you for consulting with the Port of London Authority on the above-mentioned Isle of Dogs Neighbourhood Plan.

The area is characterised by its docks and river location. It is noted that many of the objectives set out for the area are linked to improvements to transport, community and educational facilities. The statement made under 'Infrastructure' on page 17 of the draft plan advises that 'we now wish to replicate the scale of that investment (from LDDC) in transport, community...'. It is therefore surprising, especially given the area's proximity to the River and Docks, that more has not been made of the potential to utilise the River in this regard.

For information, the Port of London Authority is the statutory harbour authority for the tidal Thames between Teddington and the Thames Estuary. It's statutory functions include responsibility for conservancy, dredging, maintaining the public navigation and controlling vessel movements and it's consent is required for the carrying out of all works and dredging in the river and the provision of moorings. The PLAs functions also include for promotion of the use of the river as an important transport corridor to London.

The PLA encourage a high level of emphasis to be given to the River Thames for areas benefiting from River frontage. The riverside location of the neighbourhood area can be key to it's future development and success, therefore the River should be utilised as an asset where practicable. The PLA consider that the River Thames can be used as a key economic support in the development of these areas, in accordance with the approach set out in it's Thames Vision. It is important that the River Thames is embedded within any strategy, as part of any new Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan, or in relation to the aims and objectives for riverside management need to coordinate planning across land and water. It is also important that the protection and enhancement of the distinctive river scape (including the area's Docks) is incorporated within river related policies or aims, which reflects all interested parties wants and wishes. The river is an important environment, which should be preserved.

The PLAs Thames Vision is about planning for the river's future, so that we can make the most of its potential, for the benefit of all. The Vision seeks to consider all Thames uses together: trade, travel, leisure and pleasure. The PLA would encourage the promotion of the river in a comparable way, setting a growing river use in its context as a great natural asset, which must be conserved and improved – in terms of its water quality, wildlife and attractiveness as an open space. Within Strategic Planning, it is the PLAs view that more should be made of these opportunities.

The aims of the Neighbourhood plan include the aspiration to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of its residents, by encouraging healthy lives. With the above in mind, further promotion of the use of the river or Thames path could further assist in this objective. Improving the Thames Path will encourage more walking and cycling. In addition, aiding in the objective of promoting a cleaner and greener lifestyle within the area. More could be made of the Thames as a place of destination in itself, promoting the Water space as part of the open/recreational space of this neighbourhood plan area, which covers the Borough of Tower Hamlets.

In addition, and given the aspiration to promote more sustainable transport modes within the neighbourhood, it is surprising that the River Thames does not play more of a role in achieving this within the document. The Neighbourhood plan has the opportunity to support the use and enjoyment of the river, and which the PLA would seek to support. Waterways, such as those rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs, are linear open spaces, and as such the PLA considers the opportunities provided by water spaces are important for sport, recreation and visual amenity, all of which contribute to health and wellbeing (an important strategic aim for the Borough, and Neighbourhood plan itself). It should be recognised within the document that the River could be utilised as a mode of sustainable transport. There are opportunities along this section of the river providing access to the River and in close proximity to River bus and Woolwich ferry services, which provide facilities for passenger, freight and tourist traffic, sport and leisure facilities and establishes the continued use of the River Thames along the water frontage. Policy objectives seeking to promote the use of the River in this way would accord with the PLAs Thames Vision (2016).

It is considered that further reference to encouraging use of the river for the should be made. Given the importance of waterways in this area, it is considered important to continue to protect and enhance these spaces through the policies, not only within Local Plans, but also within neighbourhood plans such as this one for the Isle of Dogs.

I hope this is of assistance to you. If you wish to discuss any matters raised within this e-mail please do not hesitate to contact me via the contact details below.

Regards

Helena

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Find out about the Cleaner Thames campaign:

- Website: [www.pla.co.uk/Cleaner-Thames](http://www.pla.co.uk/Cleaner-Thames)
- Film: <https://youtu.be/9bsLmgzpHQE>
- Twitter: @LondonPortAuth #cleanerthames

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