



Campaign to Protect  
Rural England  
LONDON

# Press Release

## **EMBARGO:**

Not for publication before 00.01 hrs Friday 17  
February.

Date

13 Feb. 2006

## **EAST LONDONERS CHALLENGE GOVERNMENT TO MEET HIGH EXPECTATIONS IN THAMES GATEWAY**

The results of a YouGov poll, unveiled today by CPRE[1], show that most East Londoners are optimistic about the Government's plans for the regeneration of the Thames Gateway[2], but many are worried about environmental damage and the Government's failure to respect local opinion. Residents are optimistic about future jobs, transport services, local amenities and the quality of new buildings

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**A summary of the survey results in East London  
are attached at Appendix A.**

**Summary results for the whole Thames Gateway  
are attached at Appendix B.**

President  
Harley Sherlock

Chairman  
Robina Rose

Chief Executive  
Nigel Kersey

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of respondents in East London said they generally welcomed the plans. The results suggest that this is because they believe it

The Campaign to Protect Rural England exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country.

Registered charity number 802622

would mean better employment opportunities (73%) and transport, including public transport, roads and parking (74%).

Most respondents were also hopeful that the plans will bring benefits for:

- public services including schools, health centres, leisure facilities (60%); and
- the quality of new buildings and homes (60%).

The results may come as a surprise to the Government, which has recently fielded strong criticism for a lack of leadership in the Thames Gateway programme, building the wrong kind of housing and for failing to address the area's downmarket reputation[3]. The challenge facing the Government is to make sure that people's high expectations are met and, CPRE says, this optimism may be threatened if key concerns are not addressed.

The biggest concern for people in East London was the effect that the plans would have on the countryside. Almost half (46%) thought that new housing, offices, roads and other developments would cause harm to the countryside, confirming CPRE's view that more consideration should be given to protecting the landscape and London's Green Belt.

38% - nearly four out of ten - respondents didn't feel the Government or local authorities is doing enough to take their views into account.

Nigel Kersey, Director of CPRE's London Branch said:

'The results suggest that public goodwill could be a major asset to the Government in getting its regenerations plans through. But

goodwill risks being squandered if they can't deliver on the promises and prove that the public's concerns are really being dealt with. Ordinary people need convincing that they will see real improvements in their quality of life.'

'The Government needs to prevent building on greenfield land, empower councils to reject sub-standard planning applications and show that public transport systems will cope.'

CPRE strongly supports the regeneration of the Thames Gateway because, if successful, it will make available large amounts of currently derelict urban land back into use and make the area more attractive to live in, helping to relieve pressure for urban sprawl throughout south-eastern England.

- ENDS -

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

- [1]** CPRE London is the London Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England. CPRE exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country. We promote positive solutions for the long-term future of the countryside to ensure change values its natural and built environment. Our Patron is Her Majesty The Queen. We have 59,000 supporters, a branch in every county, nine regional groups, over 200 local groups and a national office in London. CPRE is a powerful combination of effective local action and strong national campaigning. Our President is Sir Max Hastings.
- [2]** As part of its Sustainable Communities Plan initiative, the Government is pursuing a massive building programme in the in the 'Thames Gateway Growth Area', whereby it intends that at least 120,000 new homes and up to 180,000 new jobs will be created in the area between 2003 and 2016. The 'Thames Gateway Growth Area' consists of much of East London, together with parts of north Kent and south Essex on either side of the Thames Estuary. The Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, is hoping that 120,000 new homes can be built in East London alone.
- [3]** For example: in November 2005, the Urban Task Force (Chaired by Lord Richard Rogers of Riverside) published a report 'Towards a Strong Urban Renaissance' which was critical of progress in a number of key policy areas; in January, the Institute for Public Policy Research published a report 'Gateway

People' which cast doubt on the ability of the Thames Gateway to attract high income earners; and also in January, management consultants Hornagold & Hills published a report 'Thames Gateway - Laying the blue line', which appeared strongly critical of the quality of Government leadership for the Thames Gateway programme.

## APPENDIX A: YouGov/CPRE survey results - East London Postcode areas: E, IG, RM, SE (Total respondents: 269)

	Total	E	IG	RM	SE	
In principle, do you find the Government's programme to regenerate and redevelop the Thames Gateway welcome or unwelcome?	Strongly welcome	113	29	4	23	57
	Slightly welcome	83	19	1	18	45
	No opinion	34	8	0	7	19
	Slightly unwelcome	20	4	0	5	11
	Strongly unwelcome	19	1	0	9	9
In general, does the programme to regenerate and redevelop the Thames Gateway – as far as you understand it – worry you at all?	Worries me a lot	32	6	0	14	12
	Worries me a little	69	15	2	8	44
	Does not worry me much	83	19	0	19	45
	Does not worry me at all	49	14	2	14	19
	Have not really found out anything about it so far	36	7	1	7	21
<i>How will the Thames Gateway programme affect each of following for the people living in the area?</i>						
The quality of buildings and homes in the area	Much better	32	11	0	6	15
	Better	131	31	2	30	68
	No change	73	13	3	16	41
	Worse	22	4	0	6	12
	Much worse	11	2	0	4	5
Employment opportunities	Much better	50	12	0	13	25
	Better	147	34	5	35	73
	No change	52	11	0	7	34
	Worse	14	3	0	6	5
	Much worse	6	1	0	1	4
Public services (e.g.: schools, health centres, leisure facilities)	Much better	30	11	0	8	11
	Better	126	31	3	20	72
	No change	73	13	2	15	43
	Worse	27	4	0	11	12
	Much worse	13	2	0	8	3
Public transport, roads and parking etc.	Much better	44	13	1	7	23
	Better	108	30	3	15	60
	No change	48	8	0	12	28
	Worse	37	7	1	15	14
	Much worse	32	3	0	13	16
Do you agree or disagree with the statement that: 'Considerable harm will be caused to the countryside in the Thames Gateway as a result of new housing, offices, roads and other development being built outside of the existing urban areas' ?	Agree strongly	52	11	1	15	25
	Agree	72	17	1	14	40
	Neither agree nor disagree	95	22	2	23	48
	Disagree	43	10	1	10	22
	Disagree strongly	7	1	0	0	6
Do you agree or disagree with the statement that: 'Government and local authorities are taking into account the views of local people in developing their plans for the redevelopment and regeneration of the Thames Gateway'?	Agree strongly	6	3	0	2	1
	Agree	55	13	1	10	31
	Neither agree nor disagree	105	28	1	19	57
	Disagree	63	11	3	19	30
	Disagree strongly	40	6	0	12	22

Do you agree or disagree with the statement that: 'Good quality jobs will be generated in sufficient numbers in the Thames Gateway so that a lot of people living in the area will be able to find work closer to where they live'?	Agree strongly	15	6	0	2	7
	Agree	104	21	4	28	51
	Neither agree nor disagree	84	19	1	14	50
	Disagree	52	14	0	13	25
	Disagree strongly	14	1	0	5	8

## APPENDIX B: CPRE/YouGov Survey Results - All areas (Postcode areas: DA, E, IG, ME, RM, SE, SS)

### Unweighted

Sample Size: 967 Thames Gateway residents  
Fieldwork: 14th December 2005 to 9th January 2006

**1) In principle, do you find the Government's programme to regenerate and redevelop the Thames Gateway welcome or unwelcome?**

Strongly welcome	<b>305</b>
Slightly welcome	<b>314</b>
No opinion	168
Slightly unwelcome	91
Strongly unwelcome	85

**2) In general, does the programme to regenerate and redevelop the Thames Gateway – as far as you understand it – worry you at all?**

Worries me a lot	130
Worries me a little	<b>272</b>
Does not worry me much	<b>263</b>
Does not worry me at all	168
Have not really found out anything about it so far	130

**3) How will the Thames Gateway programme affect each of following for the people living in the area?**

a) The quality of buildings and homes in the area

Much better	107
Better	<b>445</b>
No change	<b>258</b>
Worse	112
Much worse	41

b) Employment opportunities

Much better	<b>193</b>
Better	<b>478</b>
No change	<b>210</b>
Worse	61
Much worse	21

c) Public services (e.g.: schools, health centres, leisure facilities)

Much better	99
Better	<b>367</b>

No change	<b>273</b>
Worse	142
Much worse	82

d) Public transport, roads and parking etc.

Much better	126
Better	<b>314</b>
No change	188
Worse	184
Much worse	151

4) **Do you agree or disagree with the statement that: ‘Considerable harm will be caused to the countryside in the Thames Gateway as a result of new housing, offices, roads and other development being built outside of the existing urban areas’ ?**

Agree strongly	<b>218</b>
Agree	<b>294</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>314</b>
Disagree	123
Disagree strongly	14

5) **Do you agree or disagree with the statement that: ‘Government and local authorities are taking into account the views of local people in developing their plans for the redevelopment and regeneration of the Thames Gateway’?**

Agree strongly	18
Agree	159
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>345</b>
Disagree	<b>263</b>
Disagree strongly	178

6) **Do you agree or disagree with the statement that: ‘Good quality jobs will be generated in sufficient numbers in the Thames Gateway so that a lot of people living in the area will be able to find work closer to where they live’?**

Agree strongly	46
Agree	<b>368</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>315</b>
Disagree	170
Disagree strongly	64

In addition, the following open questions were asked. Individual responses are available:

**What are the principal benefits that you expect to see from the programme to regenerate and redevelop the Thames Gateway?**

**Those who find the programme unwelcome, what are your principle concerns/ worries about the programme to regenerate and redevelop the Thames Gateway?**

**What one thing do you think the Government should do for the Thames Gateway to bring about the greatest improvement in quality of life in the area?**

