

13 March 2024

Transport for London
197 Blackfriars Road
London
SE1 8NJ

Dear Sir/Madam,

London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) is writing to express its support for the proposed extension of the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) to Beckton Riverside and Thamesmead.

LCCI has more than 8,000 businesses in its community network, and alongside the affiliated local Chambers of Commerce across the capital, we represent the views of a vast number of companies from all sectors and of all sizes.

LCCI welcomes the proposed extension of the DLR to Beckton Riverside and Thamesmead. This investment is greatly needed to unlock additional housing capacity in these areas, providing a reliable public transport connection for future residents. Businesses will also be supported by the extended network, facilitating business travel across the city.

It was suggested that whilst the proposed extension is welcome, Transport for London (TfL) should not stop at Thamesmead and Beckton Riverside. Additional links to Havering, Barking & Dagenham, Beam Reach and Rainham would help unlock further potential housing supply and support the aims of the Mayor of London and TfL to get more people onto sustainable modes of transport.

A soon-to-be published report from LCCI has highlighted that Barking & Dagenham in particular is the city's most deprived borough, with an employment rate below the London average. However, there is significant investment underway via the London Riverside Opportunity Area to unlock housing and jobs in Barking & Dagenham and improve outcomes for residents. The Mayor of London has identified Barking & Dagenham as having high growth potential, and investment in transport infrastructure would support this assertion.

Havering is one of the largest boroughs in London but is not well served by public transport (outside of the bus network). Establishing a DLR connection in the borough would be a welcome addition, supporting the key sectors of employment (such as healthcare and retail). LCCI would also encourage TfL to keep the option of a link with Bexley as per the supplementary information of the consultation.

Transport investment should be a priority of every Mayor of London, and it is encouraging to see TfL looking to undertake this project. It has been a difficult number of years for TfL, but this consultation serves as an optimistic sign that major transport investment in London remains top of the Mayor's agenda. However, LCCI has continued to call for central government support on transport investment in London, to further support the capital's recovery from the pandemic and maintain its global city status.

Yours faithfully,



James Watkins
Head of Policy and Public Impact
London Chamber of Commerce and Industry