



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
LONDON

Press Release

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THAMES GATEWAY STRATEGY SHOULD SHOW PROGRESS YEAR-ON-YEAR

Date

31 March 2005

CPRE[1] has welcomed the publication of the Government's strategy for the Thames Gateway,[2] launched today (Thursday) by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister.[3] CPRE is urging the Government to commit to annual reports on progress towards the strategy's key aspirations.

Nigel Kersey, CPRE's Thames Gateway Project Leader, commented:

'CPRE recognises that the successful regeneration of the Thames Gateway offers an unprecedented opportunity to accommodate development on urban brownfield land. This could greatly reduce the pressure for urban sprawl and new road-building across South East England and help to regenerate existing urban areas. We therefore support the Government's intention to regenerate the area.'

Nigel Kersey continued:

'We welcome a great deal in this strategy. It is a genuine attempt to start firming up delivery timetables across a range of important commitments. But urban regeneration and employment growth in the Thames Gateway will not be achieved without a radical improvement

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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

in the area's image and environmental quality. We therefore urge the Government to follow it through with annual reports on progress, measured by key indicators of urban and rural environmental quality and people's quality of life.'

- END -

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. 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. *Sustainable Communities: Delivering the Thames Gateway* is published today by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

3. Today's ODPM news release: *£6 Billion Action Plan Transforming Thames Gateway to Create Thriving Sustainable Communities* can be found at: www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn_id=2005_0090.

