# TfL confirms £1.7 billion DLR extension to Thamesmead with strong local backing



Transport for London (TfL) has unveiled an ambitious plan to extend the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) from Gallions Reach to Thamesmead, featuring a new tunnel under the River Thames and two proposed stations: Beckton Riverside and Thamesmead Waterfront. While these new stops will not be part of the London Underground network, they are set to appear on the iconic Tube map, offering the growing Thamesmead area a significant boost in visibility and connectivity. The extension is poised to dramatically reduce travel times for residents, making journeys to Stratford possible in 25 minutes and to Tottenham Court Road within around 35 minutes.

The project carries a substantial price tag, with Newham Council documents estimating construction costs up to £1.7 billion. However, TfL projects the wider economic impact at an impressive £15.6 billion. This investment could enable the development of approximately 30,000 new homes and 10,000 jobs across east and southeast London, contributing significantly to housing and employment opportunities in a currently underconnected region. Alex Williams, TfL's chief customer and strategy officer, emphasised the importance of the scheme, calling it a “crucial opportunity to create new homes, jobs and economic growth” and encouraging local residents to engage with the ongoing consultation process.

Public opinion strongly favours the extension. An initial consultation earlier in 2024 saw 75% of respondents backing the proposal, with more detailed polling revealing that 85% of residents in nearby communities such as Beckton, Gallions Reach, Thamesmead, and Abbey Wood support or strongly support the plan. The Royal Borough of Greenwich has echoed this enthusiasm, highlighting that 58% of respondents believe the extension would make local journeys quicker and 75% agree it would improve wider travel connections in east and southeast London.

The scheme forms part of a broader strategy to improve transport infrastructure and catalyse regeneration in these growing areas. TfL’s consultation, which attracted over 1,200 responses, underlines local demand for better public transport access and recognises the potential for transformational development along the route. By connecting more parts of London, the DLR extension aims to ease pressure on existing transport networks while supporting long-term economic growth.

However, challenges remain, particularly around funding. Greenwich Council has voiced concerns about meeting its share of the financial commitment for the project, currently forecast at up to £1.7 billion. Discussions are ongoing involving the council, the Mayor of London, and central government to establish how best to allocate costs and secure necessary investment. The collaborative effort is part of a broader move to unlock the potential of Thamesmead and Beckton Riverside through improved public transport infrastructure.

TfL’s proposal represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance connectivity and stimulate development in a part of London that has long needed better transport links. With strong local backing and significant economic benefits on the horizon, the project is now moving forward towards final planning decisions, with public input continuing to shape its future.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2074102/map-shows-incredible-new-15bn), [[4]](https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/how-we-work/planning-for-the-future/dlr-extension)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2074102/map-shows-incredible-new-15bn), [[4]](https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/how-we-work/planning-for-the-future/dlr-extension), [[7]](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2023/june/tfl-and-partners-progress-public-transport-proposals-to-unlock-thamesmead-and-beckton-riverside)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2024/august/majority-of-respondents-supportive-of-plans-to-extend-the-dlr), [[3]](https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/news/2024/consultation-shows-support-dlr-extension-thamesmead), [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2074102/map-shows-incredible-new-15bn)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/how-we-work/planning-for-the-future/dlr-extension), [[7]](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2023/june/tfl-and-partners-progress-public-transport-proposals-to-unlock-thamesmead-and-beckton-riverside), [[5]](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2024/february/tfl-launches-consultation-on-plans-to-extend-dlr-to-beckton-riverside-and-thamesmead)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c903z228nwgo), [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2074102/map-shows-incredible-new-15bn)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2074102/map-shows-incredible-new-15bn), [[2]](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2024/august/majority-of-respondents-supportive-of-plans-to-extend-the-dlr), [[3]](https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/news/2024/consultation-shows-support-dlr-extension-thamesmead), [[7]](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2023/june/tfl-and-partners-progress-public-transport-proposals-to-unlock-thamesmead-and-beckton-riverside)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2074102/map-shows-incredible-new-15bn> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2024/august/majority-of-respondents-supportive-of-plans-to-extend-the-dlr> - Transport for London (TfL) has published the consultation report on plans for a cross-river extension of the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) from Gallions Reach to Thamesmead, via Beckton Riverside. The majority of respondents supported the proposals, with 58% stating the extension would make local journeys quicker and 75% agreeing it would improve connections to wider east and southeast London. Additionally, 85% of residents in areas like Beckton, Gallions Reach, Thamesmead, and Abbey Wood supported or strongly supported the proposals.
3. <https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/news/2024/consultation-shows-support-dlr-extension-thamesmead> - The Royal Borough of Greenwich has expressed strong support for the proposed extension of the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) to Beckton Riverside and Thamesmead. A consultation received over 1,254 responses, revealing that 58% of respondents believe the extension would make local journeys quicker, and 75% agree it would make journeys to wider east and southeast London easier. Additionally, 85% of residents in areas like Beckton, Gallions Reach, Thamesmead, and Abbey Wood supported or strongly supported the proposals.
4. <https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/how-we-work/planning-for-the-future/dlr-extension> - Transport for London (TfL) is considering extending the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) to Beckton Riverside and Thamesmead. This extension would improve transport connections and enable the construction of up to 25,000-30,000 new homes along the route. The consultation, which received 1,283 responses, showed positive feedback on improved access from Thamesmead and better connections to public transport. The proposed extension includes a new DLR station at Beckton Riverside, a tunnel under the River Thames, and a new DLR station at Thamesmead.
5. <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2024/february/tfl-launches-consultation-on-plans-to-extend-dlr-to-beckton-riverside-and-thamesmead> - Transport for London (TfL) has launched a consultation on plans to extend the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) from Gallions Reach to Thamesmead via Beckton Riverside. The proposed extension aims to create two new DLR stations and improve transport links, supporting the delivery of up to 25,000-30,000 new homes along the route. The consultation is open from 5 February 2024 to 18 March 2024, and public feedback will inform the next stages of the project.
6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c903z228nwgo> - Greenwich Council has raised concerns about its ability to afford its share of funding for the proposed Docklands Light Railway (DLR) extension to Thamesmead. The project, estimated to cost up to £1.7 billion, aims to improve connectivity and support the development of up to 30,000 new homes and 10,000 new jobs in Newham and Greenwich boroughs. Discussions are ongoing between the council, the Mayor of London, and the government to address funding challenges.
7. <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2023/june/tfl-and-partners-progress-public-transport-proposals-to-unlock-thamesmead-and-beckton-riverside> - Transport for London (TfL) and its partners have submitted a Strategic Outline Case to the government for a proposed Docklands Light Railway (DLR) extension from Gallions Reach to Thamesmead via Beckton Riverside. The extension aims to unlock the development of up to 25,000-30,000 new homes and create up to 10,000 jobs in the area. The project is part of a broader effort to improve public transport and support regeneration in Thamesmead and Beckton Riverside.