# Government urged to back £1.7bn DLR extension to Thamesmead amid local support and funding hurdles



Business leaders and local authorities are pressing Chancellor Rachel Reeves to approve a £1.7 billion extension of the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) to Thamesmead, a project that promises significant housing, employment, and economic benefits but has yet to secure government funding. The proposed extension would link Thamesmead with the existing DLR network, unlocking the potential for up to 25,000 new homes and creating around 10,000 jobs, while contributing an estimated £15.6 billion to the economy. Support for the project at the local level is robust, with construction expected to commence in the late 2020s and the extension operational by the early 2030s, contingent on funding and planning approvals.

Despite recognising the project's potential in the recent June spending review, the government has so far refrained from allocating any funds, stating it would "work closely" with Transport for London (TfL) and the Mayor of London as an outline business case is finalised. This cautious approach has been a source of frustration: Mayor Sadiq Khan has voiced concerns over insufficient investment in London's transport infrastructure, emphasising the need for projects like the Thamesmead DLR extension to stimulate economic growth and address housing shortages.

Local authorities are playing a crucial role in advancing the project. Transport for London recently provided additional funding to support the extension's development, which the Royal Borough of Greenwich has welcomed as a significant step forward. The council is actively encouraging residents to contribute to TfL's consultation processes, which have revealed strong public backing. A survey conducted in partnership with the London Borough of Newham showed that 58% of respondents believe the extension would speed up local journeys, while 75% agree it would enhance travel connectivity across east and southeast London. These findings underscore widespread community enthusiasm for improved transport options.

However, funding challenges persist at the local level. Greenwich Council has raised concerns about its ability to meet the financial obligations required for the project, engaging in negotiations with the Mayor of London to reduce its share of costs. Both Greenwich and Newham councils face considerable fiscal pressure, underscoring the complexities of delivering large infrastructure projects that rely on multi-tiered financing arrangements. Despite these hurdles, the councils remain committed to detailed planning and exploring all funding avenues to push the extension forward.

The DLR extension to Thamesmead represents a transformative infrastructure investment that aligns with broader regional strategies to boost housing supply and economic development in London. Although the government’s hesitancy to commit funds has slowed momentum, local stakeholders and business groups continue to advocate strongly for the project, urging that it receives the necessary backing in the upcoming Autumn Budget to realise its promising benefits.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/dlr-extension-thamesmead-beckton-rachel-reeves-tfl-sadiq-khan-businessldn-b1247803.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/dlr-extension-thamesmead-beckton-rachel-reeves-tfl-sadiq-khan-businessldn-b1247803.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/dlr-extension-thamesmead-beckton-rachel-reeves-tfl-sadiq-khan-businessldn-b1247803.html), [[5]](https://greenwichwire.co.uk/2025/06/11/dlr-thamesmead-bakerloo-line-spring-statement/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/news/2025/we-welcome-funding-boost-thamesmead-dlr-extension), [[4]](https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/news/2024/consultation-shows-support-dlr-extension-thamesmead)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.newhamrecorder.co.uk/news/24489555.greenwich-might-not-able-fund-dlr-thamesmead/), [[7]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c903z228nwgo)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/dlr-extension-thamesmead-beckton-rachel-reeves-tfl-sadiq-khan-businessldn-b1247803.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/dlr-extension-thamesmead-beckton-rachel-reeves-tfl-sadiq-khan-businessldn-b1247803.html), [[5]](https://greenwichwire.co.uk/2025/06/11/dlr-thamesmead-bakerloo-line-spring-statement/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/dlr-extension-thamesmead-beckton-rachel-reeves-tfl-sadiq-khan-businessldn-b1247803.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/dlr-extension-thamesmead-beckton-rachel-reeves-tfl-sadiq-khan-businessldn-b1247803.html> - Business leaders have urged Chancellor Rachel Reeves to approve the proposed £1.7 billion Docklands Light Railway (DLR) extension to Thamesmead in the upcoming Autumn Budget. The extension aims to connect Thamesmead to the DLR network, potentially unlocking up to 25,000 new homes, supporting 10,000 new jobs, and contributing £15.6 billion to the economy. The project has received overwhelming local support, with plans for construction to begin in the late 2020s and the extension to open in the early 2030s, pending funding and planning consent.
3. <https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/news/2025/we-welcome-funding-boost-thamesmead-dlr-extension> - The Royal Borough of Greenwich has welcomed additional funding from Transport for London (TfL) for the DLR extension to Thamesmead. This investment is a significant step forward for the project, which aims to unlock land in Thamesmead for 10,000 new homes, create new jobs, and enhance local amenities. The council encourages residents to participate in TfL's consultation on the next stage of planning, highlighting the potential benefits of improved transport links for the community.
4. <https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/news/2024/consultation-shows-support-dlr-extension-thamesmead> - A consultation conducted by the Royal Borough of Greenwich, TfL, and the London Borough of Newham revealed strong public support for the DLR extension to Thamesmead. Out of 1,254 responses, 58% believe the extension would make local journeys quicker, and 75% agree it would improve travel to wider east and southeast London. The councils are committed to developing detailed plans and exploring funding options to advance the project, aiming to start construction by 2028 and deliver the extension in the early 2030s.
5. <https://greenwichwire.co.uk/2025/06/11/dlr-thamesmead-bakerloo-line-spring-statement/> - Chancellor Rachel Reeves did not allocate funding for the DLR extension to Thamesmead in her spring statement, despite previous recognition of its potential benefits. The government committed to working with TfL and the mayor to explore delivery options but did not provide specific funding. Mayor Sadiq Khan expressed concerns over insufficient investment in London's infrastructure, emphasizing the need for projects like the DLR extension to support economic growth and housing development.
6. <https://www.newhamrecorder.co.uk/news/24489555.greenwich-might-not-able-fund-dlr-thamesmead/> - Greenwich Council has expressed concerns about its ability to fund its share of the proposed DLR extension to Thamesmead. The council is negotiating with the Mayor of London to reduce the financial burden, as both Greenwich and Newham councils are being asked to contribute significant amounts. Discussions are ongoing to secure funding and ensure the project's feasibility.
7. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c903z228nwgo> - Greenwich Council has raised concerns about its capacity to fund the proposed DLR extension to Thamesmead. Negotiations with the Mayor of London are underway to address these financial challenges. The project, estimated to cost up to £1.7 billion, aims to provide up to 30,000 new homes and 10,000 new jobs in Newham and Greenwich boroughs, enhancing connectivity and supporting economic growth.