

TRANSPORT FOR LONDON

ENVIRONMENT, CORPORATE AND PLANNING PANEL

SUBJECT: RIVER CROSSINGS PACKAGE

DATE: 23 FEBRUARY 2012

1 PURPOSE AND DECISION REQUIRED

- 1.1 This paper provides the latest position on the River Crossings package.
- 1.2 The Panel is asked to note recent developments and the next steps with this package.

2 BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Mayor has confirmed his intention to progress work developing a River Crossings package and has announced this publicly. The package consists of:
 - (a) a new cable car connection (Emirates Air Line) already under construction to be delivered in 2012;
 - (b) a new vehicle ferry at Gallions Reach between Beckton and Thamesmead, potentially to replace the existing Woolwich ferry, which could be delivered by 2017; and
 - (c) a new road tunnel at Silvertown connecting the Greenwich Peninsula and the Royal Docks, which could be delivered by 2021.
- 2.2 The Emirates Air Line will provide a new direct link for pedestrians and cyclists between the Greenwich Peninsula and the Royal Docks, boosting local connectivity and helping to support the Mayor's plans for regeneration, as well as providing increased resilience for the growing Greenwich Peninsula. The total cost is around £60m, with £36m sponsorship from Emirates and the potential for further funding support from the European Regional Development Fund.
- 2.3 The vehicle ferry could potentially provide a replacement for the Woolwich ferry, with the potential for greater capacity as well as relocating crossing to a location with better road access and fewer impacts on the urban areas of Woolwich and North Woolwich. The preliminary cost estimate is around £185m (including future inflation and optimism bias at business case stage), and a preliminary assessment suggests that it has a Benefit to Cost ratio of around 2:1.
- 2.4 The road tunnel at Silvertown would provide congestion relief to the Blackwall tunnel, which is a major bottleneck on the road network, and subject to congestion on a daily basis. The tunnel will be of full vehicle gauge, to eliminate the current problem of overheight vehicles seeking to cross at Blackwall. The preliminary cost estimate for the crossing is around £700m (including future inflation and optimism bias at business case stage, but excluding potential

financing costs), and a preliminary assessment suggests that it has a Benefit to Cost ratio of around 3:1.

- 2.5 The map at Appendix 1 shows the locations of the proposed package of crossings.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 In order to progress the package further, a high level non-statutory consultation started on 6 February 2012, to last for four weeks, closing on 5 March 2012. The consultation is primarily web-based and uses TfL's existing consultation website (consultations.tfl.gov.uk). A number of stakeholder meetings with borough officers and members have been arranged or undertaken. The consultation has been advertised in TfL's Metro page, the Evening Standard and local press.
- 3.2 Further work on transport modelling, engineering feasibility and environmental assessment is taking place with support from across the business. In parallel with technical work, the business case continues to be updated and funding options considered.

4 SPECIFIC ISSUES

- 4.1 A specific issue to be resolved is the consents and powers route for the package and whether to progress under the Transport and Works Act 1992 (if possible) or with a package of consents including conventional planning consent. Following the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, offering to work with the Mayor and TfL to explore river crossing options, discussions with Government are underway to consider whether the Secretary of State might use her discretion under the Planning Act 2008 to designate the package (or part of it) as being "of national significance" in which case, the more streamlined process of a "Development Consent Order" could be used.

5 NEXT STEPS AND KEY TIMESCALES

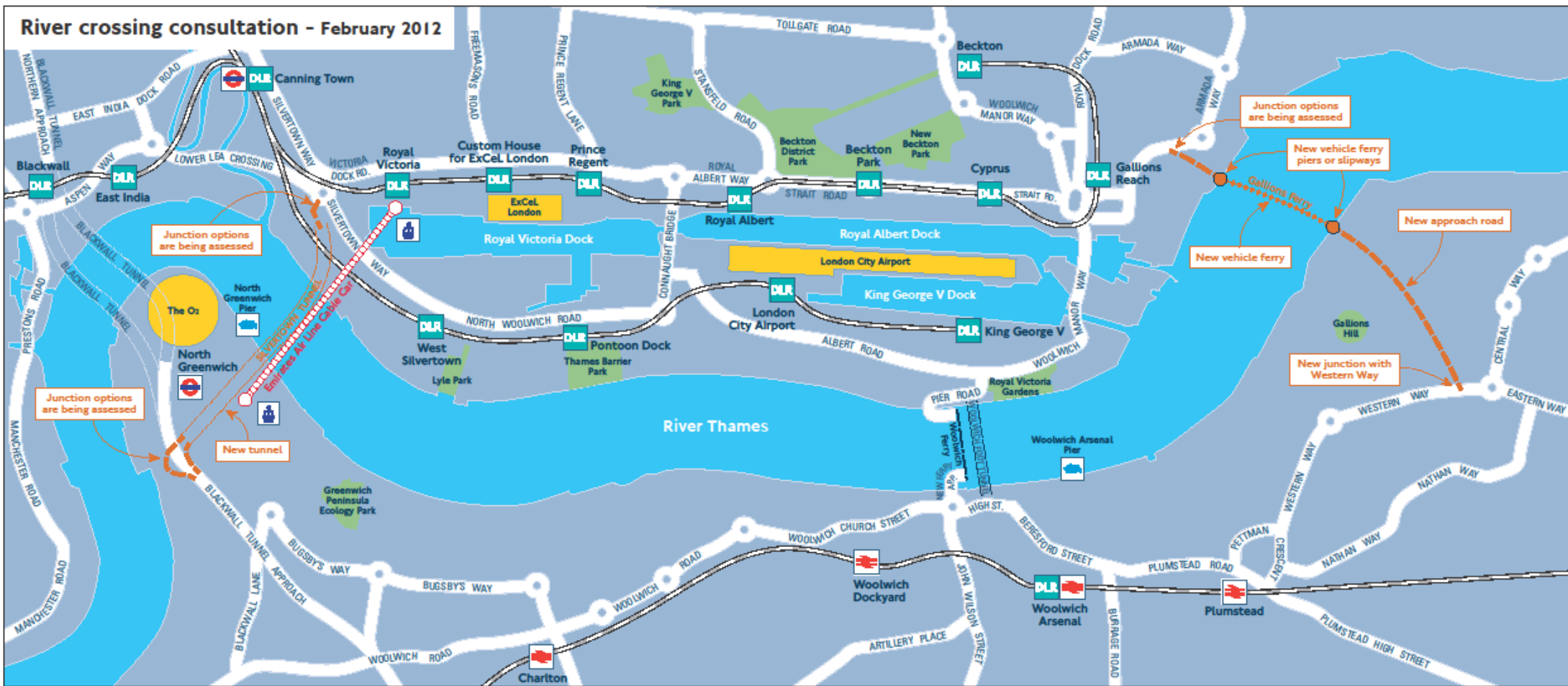
- 5.1 Powers, decisions and timescales are subject to external parties but provisional milestones for the River Crossings package are:
- (a) Non- statutory consultation closes 5 March 2012;
 - (b) Initial consultation report to Mayor 19 March 2012;
 - (c) Further, more detailed, consultation on the package end 2012;
 - (d) Continued development of engineering, transport and business case through 2012 and 2013;
 - (e) Powers submission for Gallions Reach ferry late 2013;
 - (f) Decision on Gallions Reach ferry late 2014;
 - (g) Powers submission for Silvertown tunnel mid 2015;
 - (h) Decision on Silvertown tunnel late 2016;
 - (i) Gallions Reach ferry opens 2017; and
 - (j) Silvertown tunnel opens 2021.

6 CONTACTS

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River crossing consultation - February 2012



Key	London Underground station	Docklands Light Railway station	River Services	National Rail station	Emirates Air Line Cable Car	Proposed Tunnel	Proposed Approach Road	Proposed Ferry