

Active Thames Partnership Agreement

Aim: To increase physical activity and diversity both on and alongside the water and support the sustainability of the watersports sector across London, Kent and Essex.

To achieve this London Sport, Active Essex, Kent Sport, Canal & River Trust, Thames Path National Trail, British Canoeing, British Rowing, RYA and the Port of London Authority agree upon the following shared objectives, which will support the long-term viability of the watersports sector:

1. **Growing the watersports offer**
2. **Growing the watersports workforce**
3. **Optimising the use of facilities, equipment and walking trails**

To achieve these objectives, we commit to:

1. **Securing financial investment** - to deliver actions that will enable greater participation in physical activity on and alongside the water
2. **Improving diversity and inclusion for participation to become reflective of the local community-** through removing barriers to access and tackling inactivity
3. **Working together to increase awareness and engagement in physical activity** – through planning and development opportunities, promotion, online resources, campaigns and events
4. **Supporting clubs and centres to increase their activities** - through community engagement and growing more diverse club membership
5. **Making qualifications more accessible and affordable** - by working together to create economies of scale across shared disciplines
6. **Incentivising clubs to better utilise resources** - to increase use of facilities and equipment through partnerships with other clubs or diversifying where appropriate
7. **Sharing data** on participation and workforce – to create an accurate profile of physical activity and measure impact

Scope

Achieving greater participation in sport and recreation on and alongside the river is a key commitment in the Thames Vision 2035. This sets out a collective aspiration to make the most of the tidal estuary, from Teddington to the sea, with collaborative activities also including the surrounding inland waterways. Docks, basins, canals and tributaries are essential to equipping users with the skills required to safely navigate the Thames and to achieving growth in the recreational use of the river. Key examples include, but are not limited to, Shadwell Basin, London Docklands, Danson Lake, East Haven Creek, the canal network and the Lee Navigation.

There is enormous potential to increase participation, both in existing centres of activity and as new riverside communities develop in East London. Early surveys identified the potential to increase the capacity of existing clubs by 40% (at least 13,000 people)¹, with over 40 clubs indicating that they would like to work with the PLA and London Sport to increase recreation across London, Kent and Essex.

An Active Thames Club Agreement will be developed and agreed with partners, setting out reciprocal commitments.



¹ Analysis of Physical Activity on the Tidal Thames, London Sport January 2017. [link](#)