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**From:** Greater Essex Business Board

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025 10:23:27 PM

**To:** ALEXANDER, Heidi (MP)

**Subject:** Letter regarding Lower Thames Crossing from Greater Essex Business Board.

Dear Heidi Alexander,

Please find attached a letter regarding the upcoming decision for the Development Consent Order for a new Lower Thames Crossing.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Business Board Engagement and Communications Manager

Sustainable Growth

County Hall, Market Road, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [essex.gov.uk](https://www.essex.gov.uk)



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**Greater Essex Business Board**  
c/o Essex County Council  
County Hall  
Market Road  
Chelmsford  
CM1 1LX

10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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Heidi Alexander MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Dear Heidi Alexander,

**A new Lower Thames Crossing – securing economic growth for the South East**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Greater Essex Business Board – a new group of business leaders convened to represent businesses across Greater Essex and to articulate their needs. We are an independent, diverse, and cross-sectoral group, working with local political leaders to shape the future of the Greater Essex economy.

I am writing to impress upon you the importance of supporting the future Lower Thames Crossing development. It is our conviction that the Government needs to commit to a new Lower Thames Crossing, making this an infrastructure investment priority, and securing a positive decision for the Development Consent Order in May 2025.

The current Thames crossing at Dartford is already operating above capacity. Every day, businesses across Greater Essex experience the challenges arising from this: congestion, journey time uncertainty, and higher costs. A new crossing is required to improve resilience – enhancing connectivity across the region and strengthening the national road network.

Just as important, a new crossing is required to enable of future economic growth. Without investment, constraints at Dartford present a risk to future opportunity, limiting inward investment and future development to the East of London.

This is both a local and a national issue. Both Greater Essex and Kent are strategically important gateways for the UK economy. The recent investments announced by both Stansted Airport and DP World London Gateway emphasise the role this area plays in facilitating trade and business with Europe and the World.

While a new Crossing will be an economic game-changer for communities throughout Kent and Essex, it will also support internationally important trade routes and strengthen the UK economy as a whole.

It is vital that the decision to support the DCO is a positive one, and that budgets for the necessary investment are safeguarded. We would like to work with you to ensure this happens.

Work must start soon if we are to secure the greatest possible economic impact. An announcement confirming the crossing, setting a clear timetable, and demonstrating commitment to the growth agenda would send a strong, positive message to local and international businesses.

We will be raising this issue with other Ministers beyond the Department for Transport, as this investment also supports the Government's other policy priorities, such as regeneration, employment, housing and skills. We will also be raising the issue with local MPs.

Please support business across Greater Essex and across the UK by ensuring a positive announcement for the DCO this year.

I hope we can count upon your support and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Chair  
Greater Essex Business Board