

BRIEFING: THE THAMES TIDEWAY TUNNEL

Consultation and safeguarding directions for all Tunnel Alignments (sites and river)

The Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) issued a consultation and safeguarding directions for all Tunnel Alignments (sites and river) for the Thames Tideway Tunnel on the 21st December 2012. This direction means that from the 21st December 2012 until the 31st March 2013 the following will apply:

- the Council, as a Local Planning Authority, is required to consult Thames Water Utilities Limited (TWUL) on specific applications within the identified route of the tunnel;
- where agreement with TWUL is not reached the Council **cannot grant planning** permission on such an application in respect of any land to which these Directions relate, until the expiry of a period of 21 days, which begins with the date which the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government informs the Council in writing with the date that the material specified in the Directions was received;
- if, before the expiry of the 21 day period, the Secretary of State has notified the Council that he does not intend to issue a direction under section 77 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in respect of that application, the Council may proceed to determine the application.

The Application of these directions is in respect of any application that meets the following criteria:

- it involves an application for planning permission which was not determined by the 21st December 2012;
- it relates to development within the zone specified;
- and is not an exempt application (i.e consists of an alteration to a building; or the change of use of a building or land; and does not involve, or is not likely to involve, any construction, engineering or other operations below existing ground level).

The safeguarding direction covers up to the middle of the river (see zones shown bounded by red line in maps). These Directions will remain in force until **31 March 2013**. If Thames Water Utilities Limited and the Council provide formal written confirmation that any area of the land is not required as part of the Thames Tideway Tunnel Project prior to 31 March 2013 that area of land shall cease to be subject to these Directions.