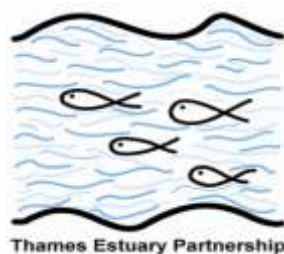


Your Tidal Thames

Welcome

Thames21 and Thames Estuary Partnership



Your Tidal Thames

Introduction

- Introductions
- Aims and agenda
- “Ground rules” for today’s meeting
- Housekeeping



Your Tidal Thames

Aims and agenda

Aims

- Introduce Your Tidal Thames
- Begin to develop shared understanding of tidal Thames
- Discuss the catchment approach
- Discuss forming a Your Tidal Thames Strategy Group
- Agree next steps

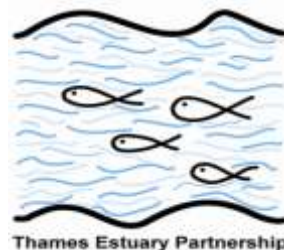
Agenda

- Welcome, introductions, context
- What we know about the tidal Thames

Lunch

- Taking a catchment based approach
- Why we need strategic advice
- Agreeing next steps

3.45 Close



Your Tidal Thames

Project aim

- To pilot on the tidal Thames the catchment-based approach to delivering integrated river management
- Produce a draft catchment plan by end of December 2012

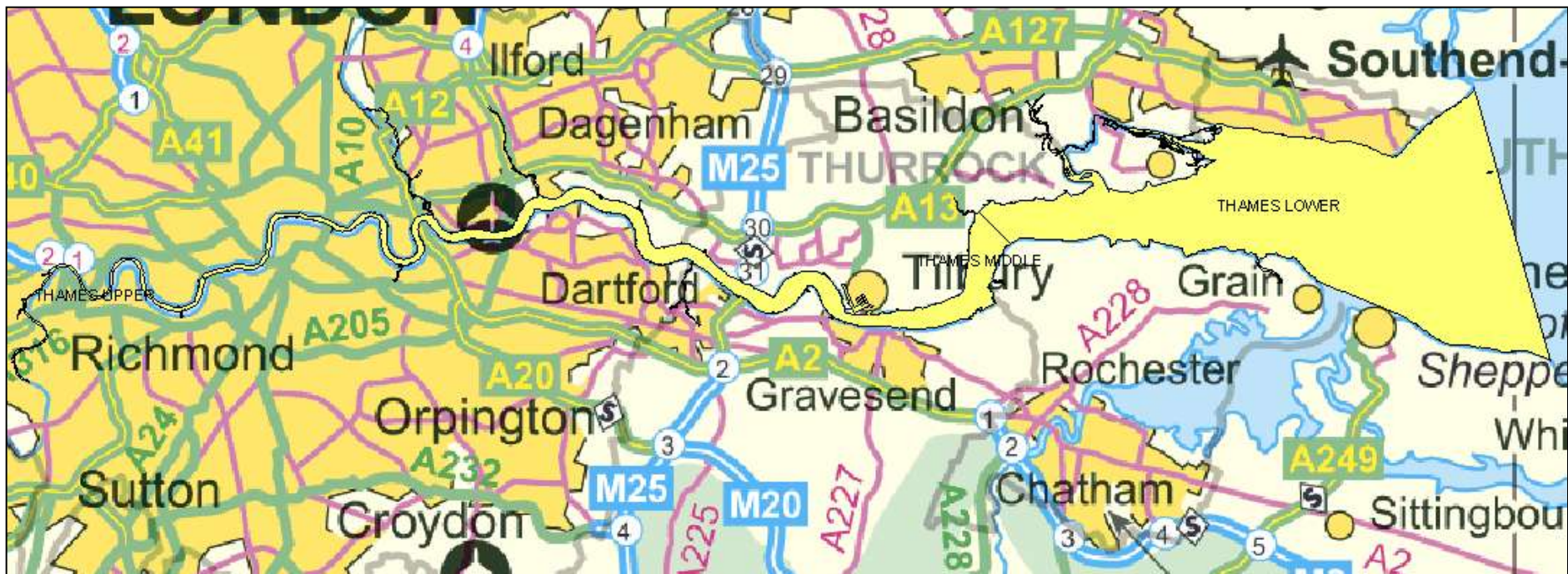
Project context

- Tidal Thames is a 70 mile stretch of heavily modified transitional waterbody from capital city to outer estuary
- Co-hosted by Thames21 and Thames Estuary Partnership (TEP)
- Two charities covering a wide mix of local community engagement, commercial river users, navigation authorities, local government, 2 county councils, and many other organisations affecting the tidal Thames.



Your Tidal Thames

Project area



Your Tidal Thames



Your Tidal Thames



Your Tidal Thames



Your Tidal Thames



Your Tidal Thames

Collaborative working

The project is co-hosted therefore collaboration is at the heart of it.

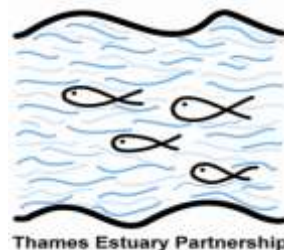
- TEP and T21 have excellent reputation amongst key stakeholders in the catchment earned over years
- The charities have complementary strengths
- The project funds two part-time posts, one with each organisation allowing for exchange of ideas, flexibility of working and greater capacity to talk to stakeholders



Your Tidal Thames

What have we done since mid January 2012?

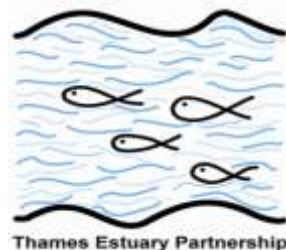
- Started a new joint working relationship between two charities
- Worked with our new EA Catchment Coordinator Alice Wilson to understand the Water Framework Directive issues and priorities for the tidal Thames
- Linked our pilot into a Nature Improvement Area and Flood risk plan
- Continued to attend the Thames River Basin Liaison Panel
- Discussed and initiated what we feel is an appropriate engagement strategy for the tidal Thames – details of this later today
- Produced documents, printed promotional materials and online media which will be used in the engagement process.
- Begun engagement by contacting all individuals and organisations on Thames21's and TEP's databases and inviting them to get involved.



Your Tidal Thames

Challenges

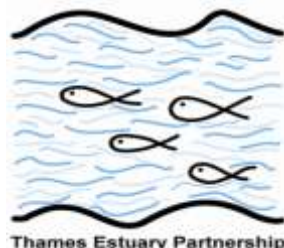
- An assumption made by the evaluation process is that pilot projects will set up a stakeholder group to agree a vision, draft a plan, get resources and integrate actions across the catchment
- Setting up a stakeholder group in an area as large and complex as the tidal Thames is too cumbersome for this stage of our project.
- Much wider engagement is needed for the tidal Thames and we hope this will be accompanied by prioritisation and 'sanity' checking through the proposed Strategy Group



Your Tidal Thames

What are we going to do next?

- Get a wide mix of stakeholders to contribute their ideas
 - Refine the plan with a Strategy Group
 - Create a virtual stakeholder group to keep all those who joined in on-board and working with us in the future
 - Have some fun
-
- **Create a draft catchment plan for the tidal Thames by the end of December 2012**

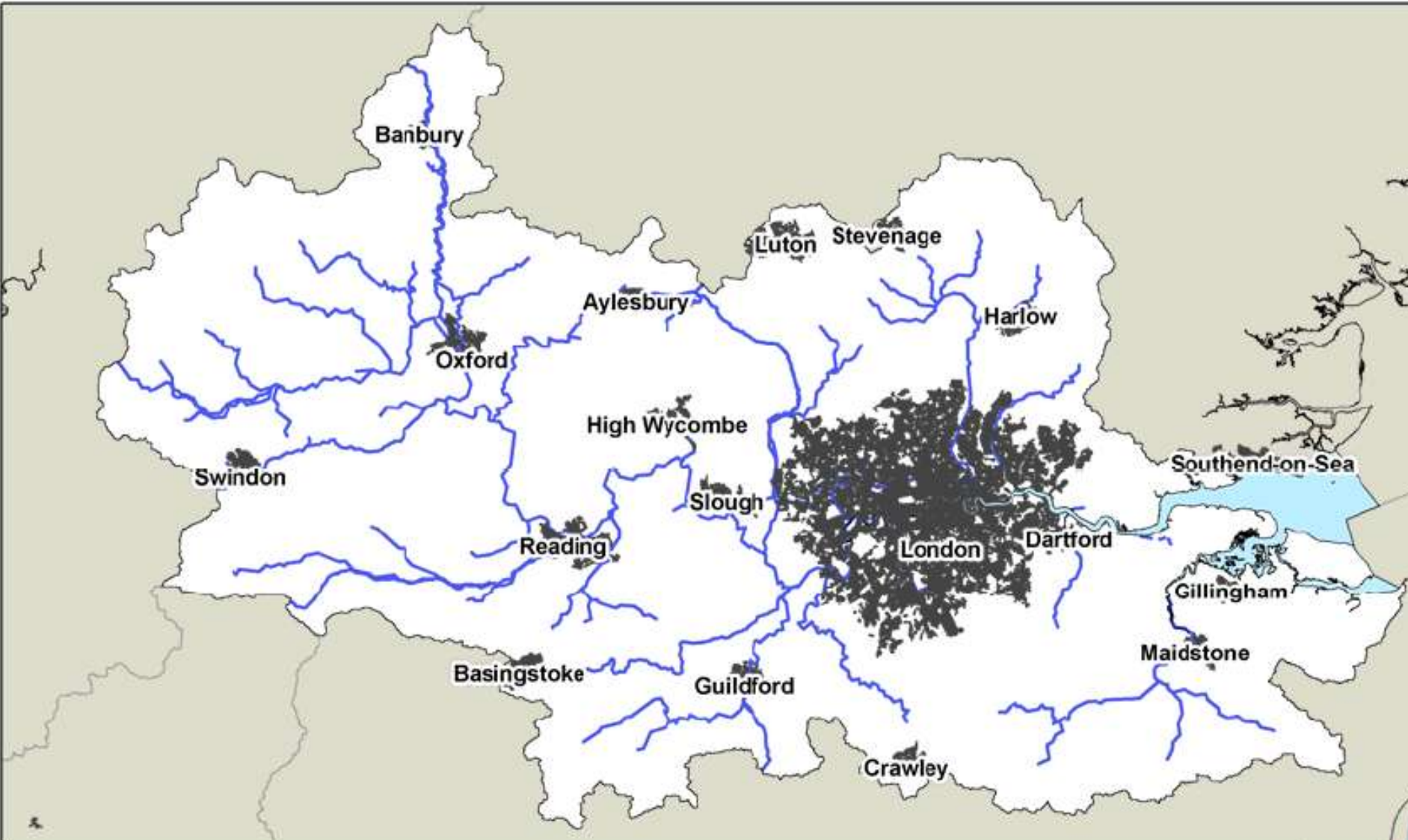




Water Framework Directive

‘European Union legislation that requires member states to make plans to protect and improve the water environment’

- ➔ UK law in December 2003.
- ➔ Applies to all:
 - ➔ Surface freshwater bodies (including lakes, streams, canals and rivers)
 - ➔ Groundwater bodies
 - ➔ Transitional water bodies (estuaries)
 - ➔ Coastal waters out to 1 mile from low-tide
- ➔ **Good status** for our water bodies
- ➔ **No deterioration** in the status of our water bodies (from baseline 2009)



0 5 10 20 30 Kilometres

River Basin District

Other RBDs

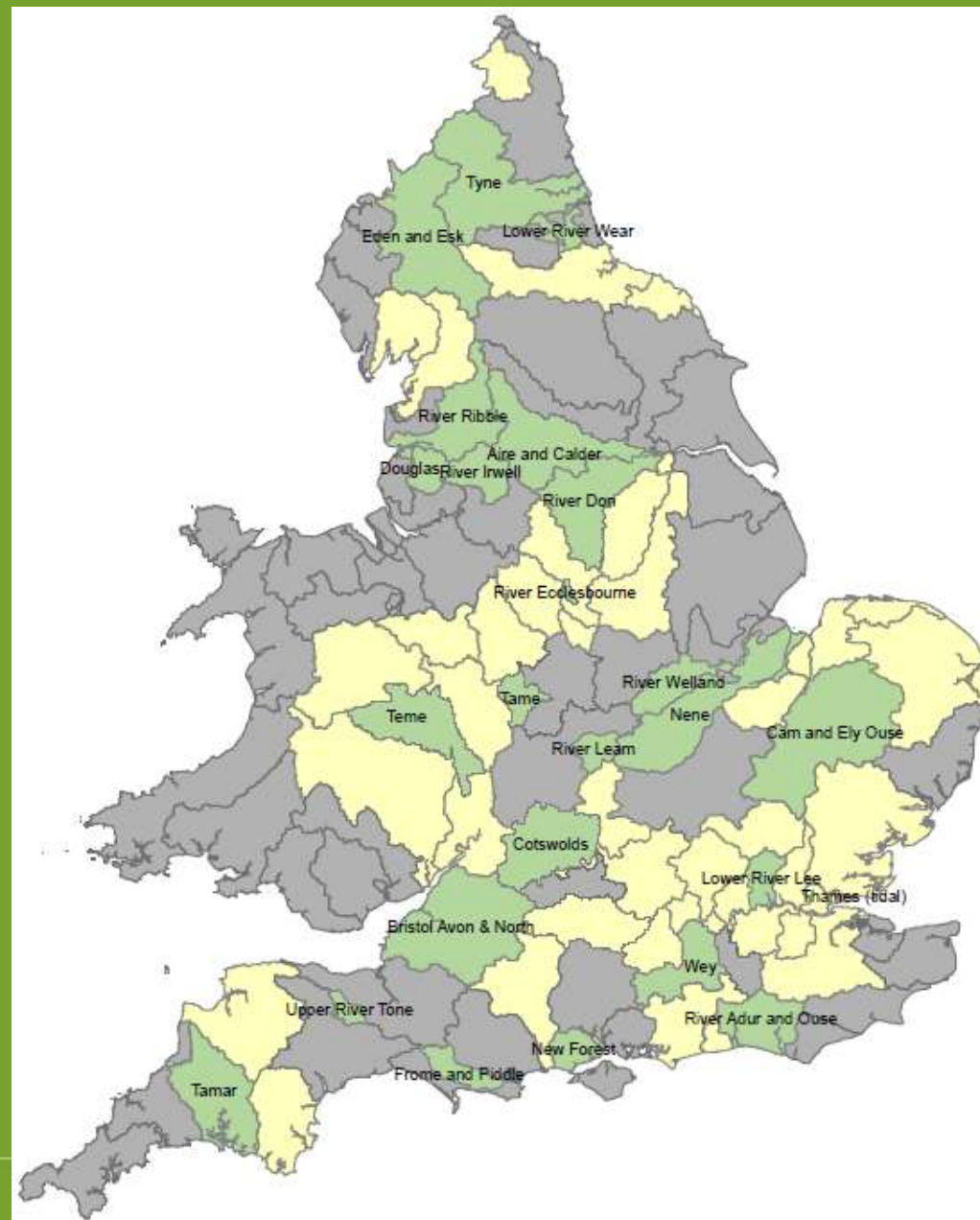
Main rivers and canals

Main urban areas

Catchment Based Approach



- ➔ 100 Catchments
- ➔ 25 Pilots
- ➔ 41 wider initiatives



Your Tidal Thames

Questions?



Tidal Thames – current status

Upper Thames:

- Flow
- Morphology

Lower Thames:

- Copper
- Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen
- Morphology
- Chemistry

Middle Thames:

- Flow
- Morphology
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen
- Chemistry



Tidal Thames – ongoing work

- WFD Investigations
 - Flow
 - Dissolved Oxygen
 - Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen
 - Chemical elements
 - Morphology
- TE 2100
- NIAs



Your Tidal Thames

Engagement will provide a broader picture

- We are asking people
 - what they see as the problems affecting the tidal Thames
 - what they think can be done to address these problems
 - to give specific details of actions
 - what should the target be to achieve and by when?
 - who else can help deliver this target?
- The information gathered through engagement will help inform and develop our understanding of the current status of the tidal Thames



Your Tidal Thames

Questions?



Your Tidal Thames

What we know about the tidal Thames

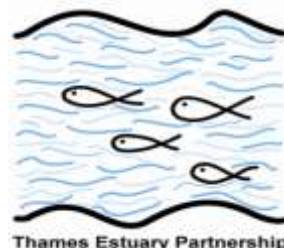
Building on the presentation we've just heard, please...

- ...discuss these questions at your tables.
- ...use the maps, and flip chart paper if you need it, to note down your table's responses.
- ...write legibly and in full sentences, as these notes will be used to inform the plan and to make the record of the meeting.

What else do we know about the tidal Thames?

What are the priority problems on and around the tidal Thames?

What are the other activities already underway or planned, to improve the tidal Thames?



What is different about the catchment based approach

- ➔ Holistic view of the catchment
- ➔ Catchment and community led
- ➔ Better at identifying opportunities to work together

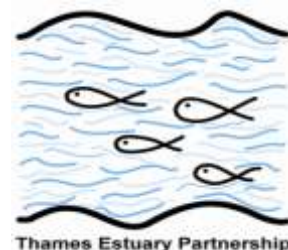
Goals

- Improving the river together
- Achieving WFD criteria

Your Tidal Thames

What is being 'piloted' in this project?

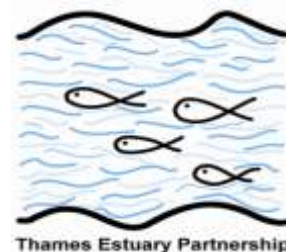
- Hosted by organisations other than the EA
- Different approach to stakeholder engagement involving non-specialists (local communities) as well as experts
- Ways of collaborative working bringing together local communities, organisations, regulatory bodies and industry to improve their patch of riverside and committing to action over the next few years
- Try to 're-connect' local communities to the river - get them excited about improving their local river environment



Your Tidal Thames

How will the Plan be developed?

- Draft Catchment Plan Template
- 'Pop-up' workshops alongside existing events
- One-to-one meetings
- Presentations and attendance at group meetings
- Prioritisation and 'sanity' checking through the proposed Strategy Group



Your Tidal Thames

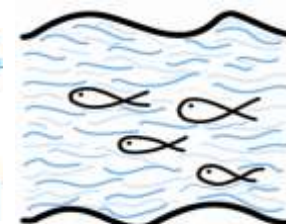
The Your Tidal Thames Pilot Catchment Plan...

...will

- be a summary of what the Thames is like at the moment
- include a summary of issues, solutions and actions for the whole tidal Thames as identified through the engagement process
- for some locations give specific details about issues, solutions and actions
- detail newly agreed action, including collaboration between organisations
- provide details of others' plans and activities which are already in place and have been committed to
- record the engagement done to develop the plan
- contain a plan for further engagement
- describe and summarise the scope to work together in the future
- include a shared vision for the tidal Thames as developed and agreed by stakeholders

...will not

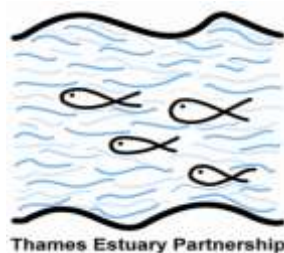
- be a definitive management plan
- include comprehensive, geographically detailed information about issues, solutions and actions for the whole tidal Thames
- be just research
- be confined to obviously Water Framework Directive related issues and actions (although this is the targeted remit of this pilot) as the useful information gathered could be applicable to other local projects where suitable.



Thames Estuary Partnership

Your Tidal Thames

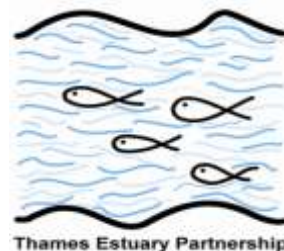
Questions?



Your Tidal Thames

Proposed role and activities of a Strategy Group

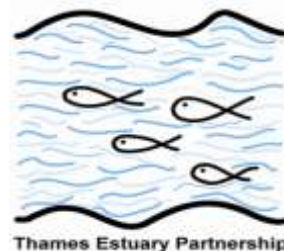
- To ensure a process of prioritising issues and solutions raised through the engagement process - necessary for the final catchment plan to make realistic recommendations for action
- To find opportunities to work together to deliver actions
- To create a network of organisations for future engagement and practical work past the life of this pilot project



Your Tidal Thames

Who might be on the Strategy Group?

- The group would need to include people from a range of sectors
- Members of the strategy group should fulfill one of these four criteria:
 - Expert technical knowledge of the tidal Thames e.g. regulatory
 - Expert ecological knowledge
 - Good recreational knowledge
 - An ability to reach into communities



Your Tidal Thames

Questions?



Your Tidal Thames



Your Tidal Thames

Evaluating this meeting

What have we learnt from this meeting about working together, that we can put into practice as we continue to work together?

