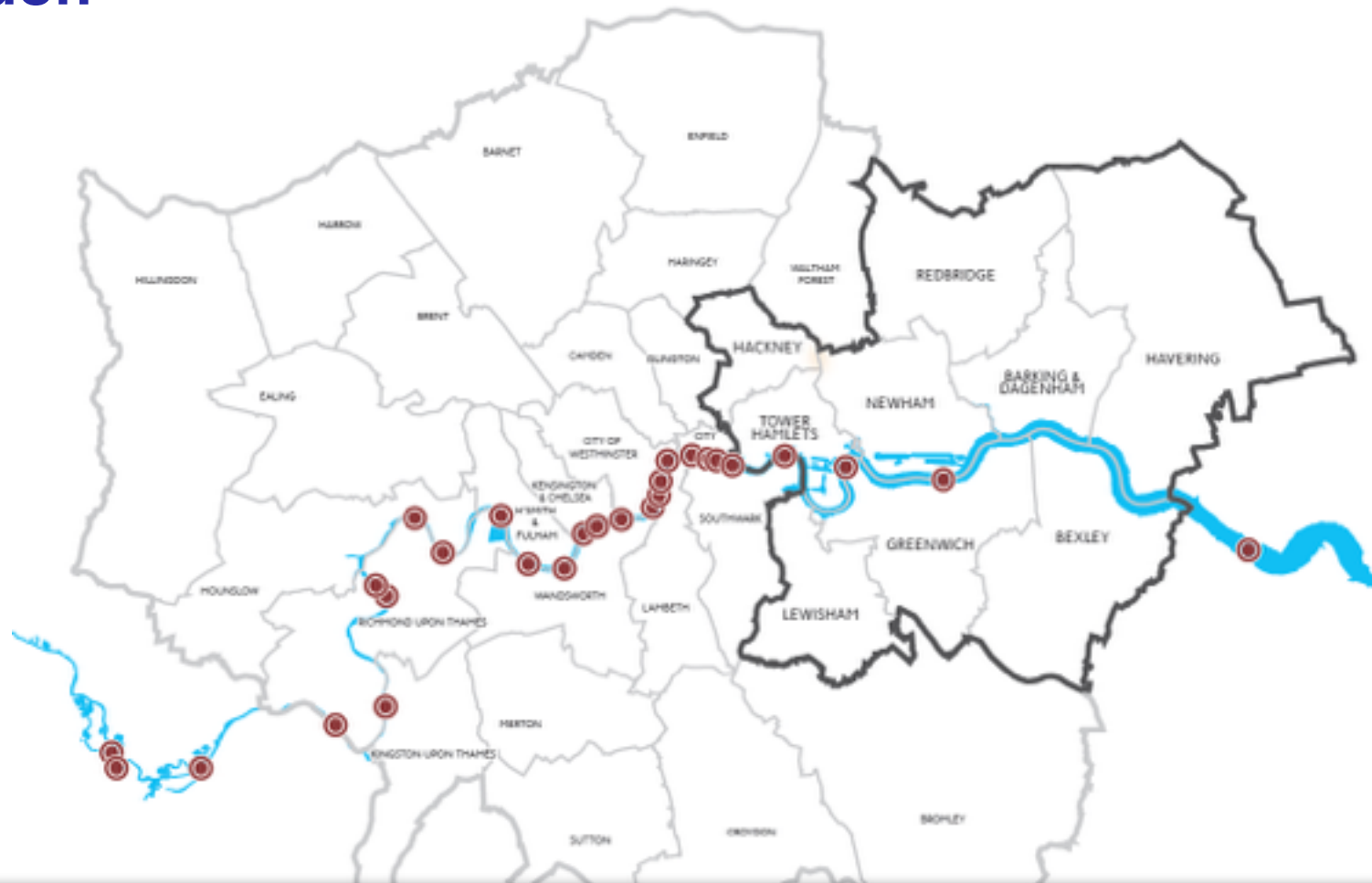


# TfL River Crossings programme



**Matt Yates**  
**Transport for London**

# East London has fewer road crossings than west London



Ave. distance  
between  
crossings

2km

West

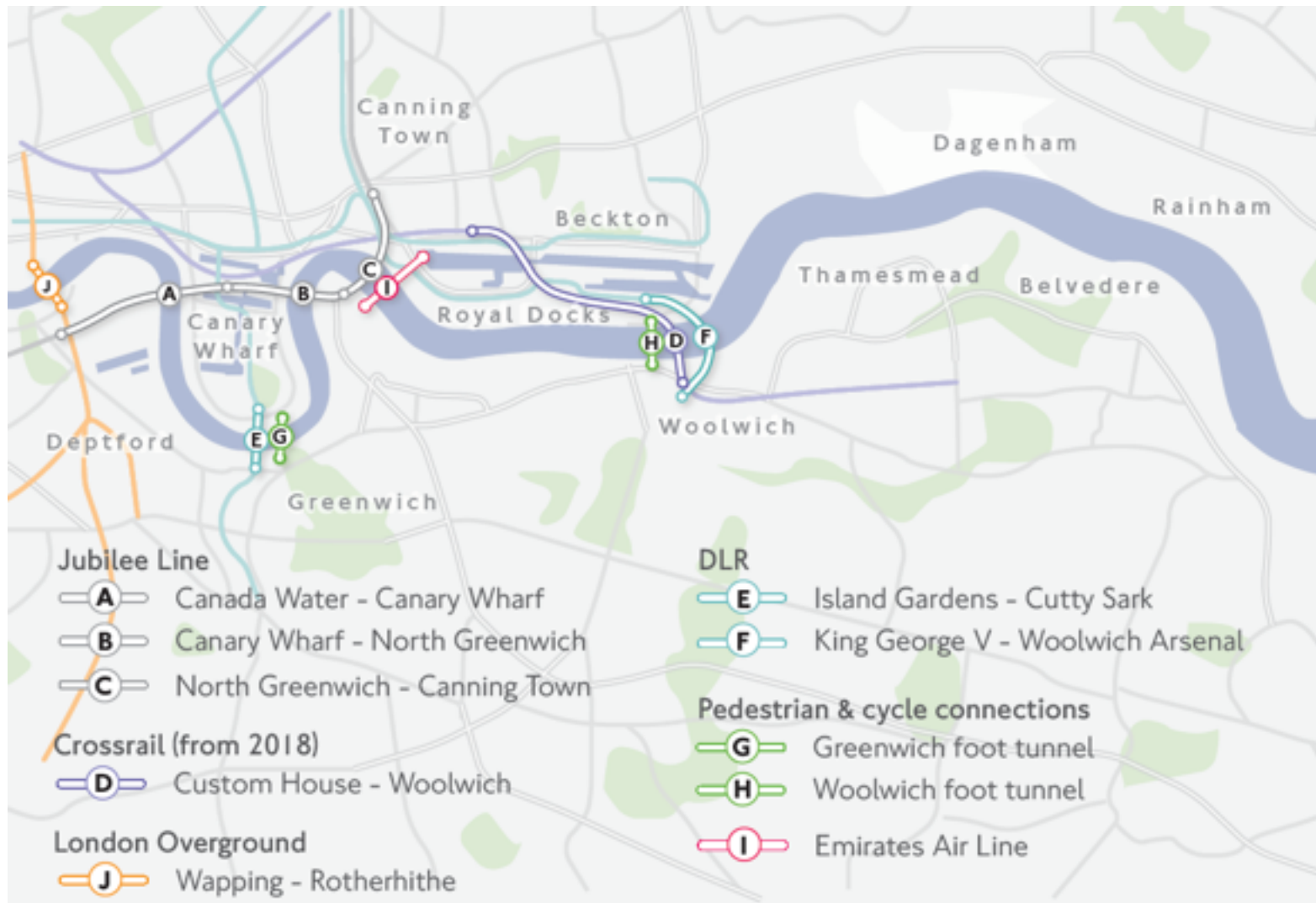
1km

Central

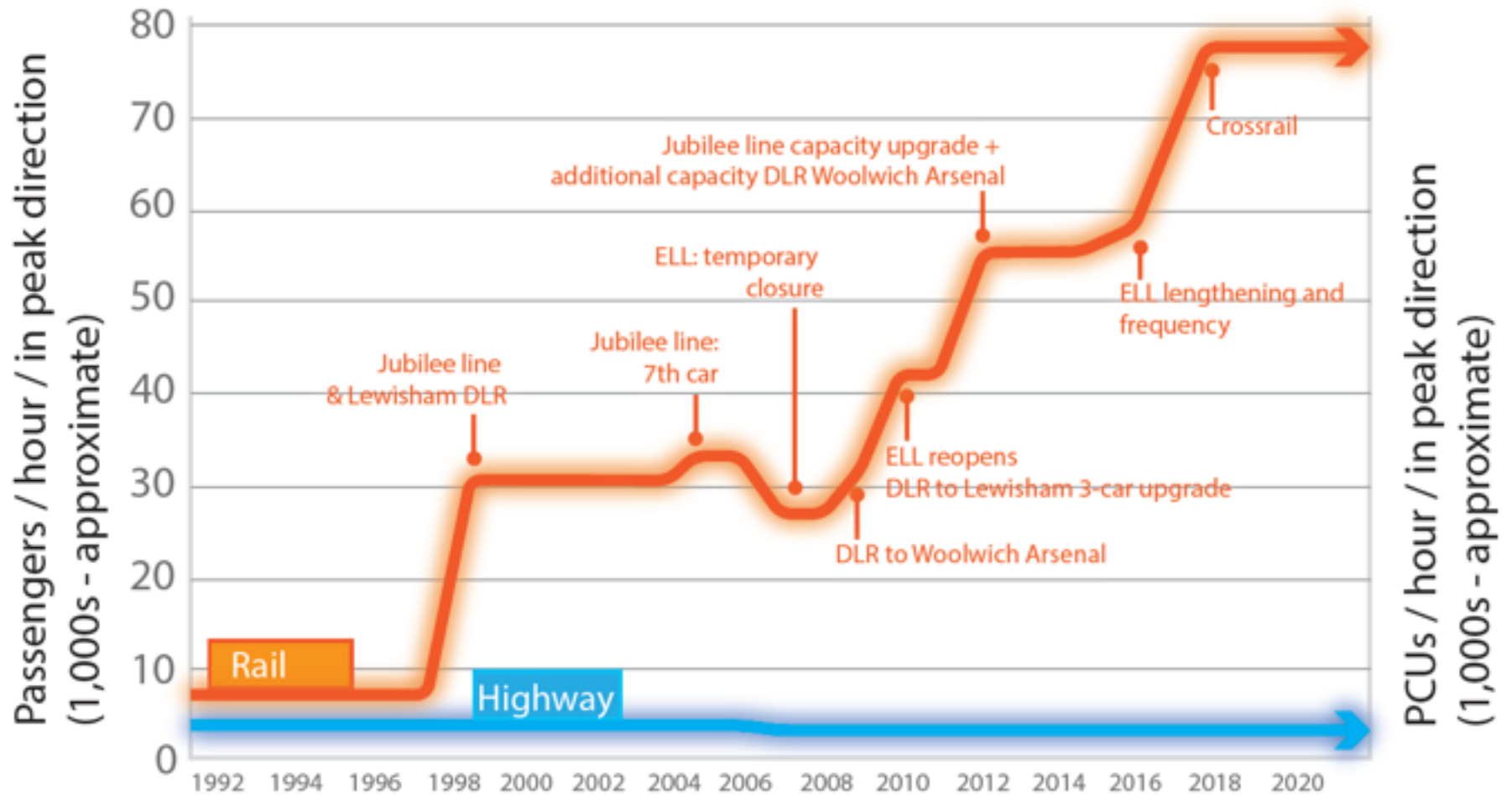
8km

East

# Major improvements in cross-river public transport links have taken place over the past 20 years



# Significant increases in public transport capacity



# Blackwall Tunnel issues

- Daily congestion over extended peak periods – extends regularly to Bow/Sun in the Sands
- Extended journey times for users – impacts on local employers and business
- Impacts across the wider network – adding delay to other vehicle journeys
- Impacts on bus service reliability and performance
- Congestion causes poor air quality
- Exacerbated by impacts – only 10 days in 2013 when there wasn't an incident at Blackwall

Nature of incident	No of incidents in 2013
Overheight vehicle attempting to access the northbound bore	649
Vehicle breakdown on the approach to or within the tunnel	234
Other – eg. Debris within the tunnel	86
Road traffic accident	67

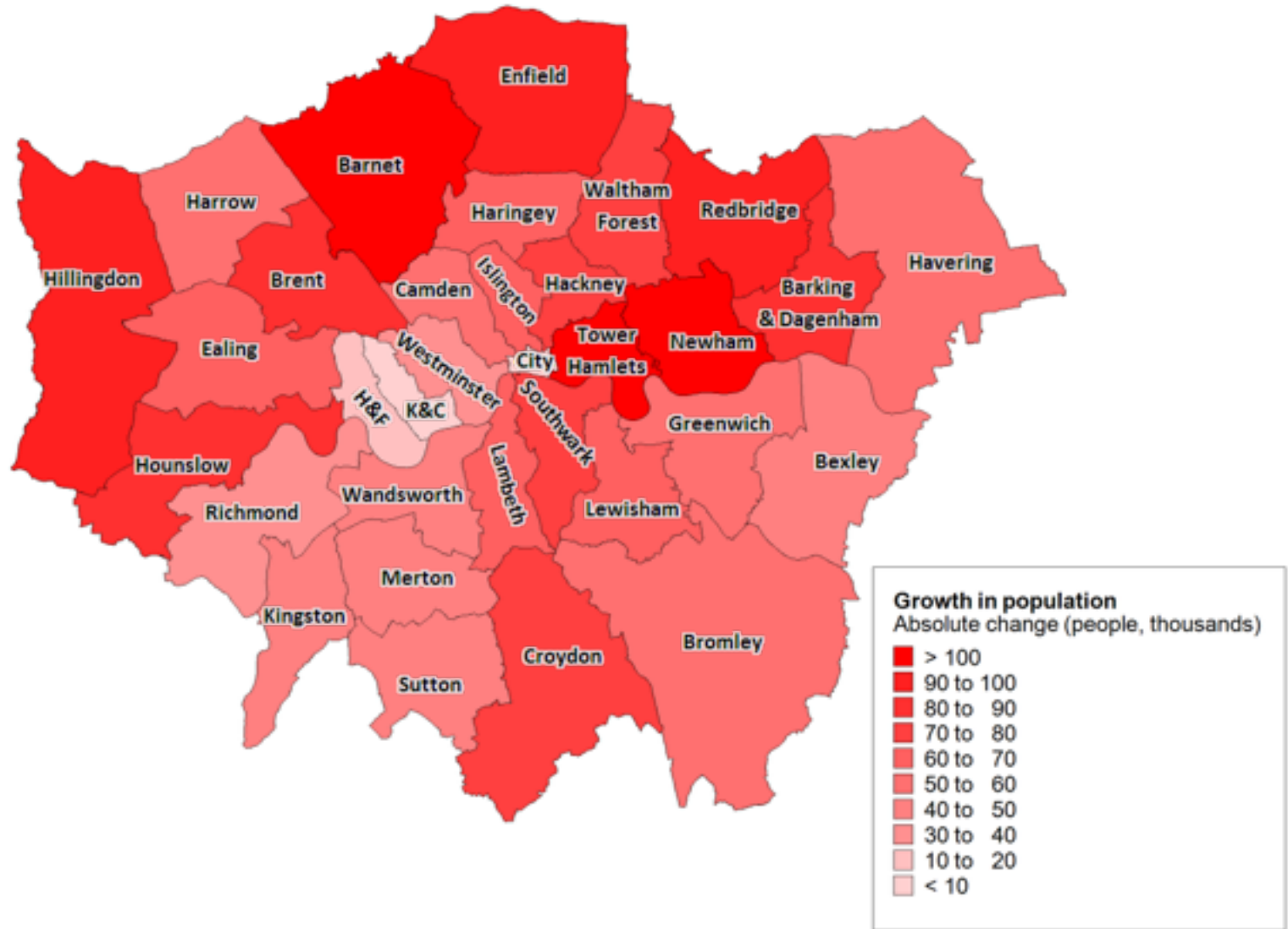


# Woolwich Ferry

- The current vessels and infrastructure started service in 1963
- Capacity is limited, so users often have to queue
- Constraints around the ferry terminals mean that queues can be disruptive to the local area
- Assumption is that assets will be beyond repair by the mid 2020s
- Repairs risk becoming more expensive and time-consuming
- Woolwich a dense residential area – lack of amenity for residents



## Forecast changes in London's population to 2031



Source: GLA 2013 round projections 2006 to 2031

# A package of new river crossings for east London

- The Silvertown Tunnel to address the problems with congestion at Blackwall
- The introduction of user charges to manage demand and fund the cost of new infrastructure
- New road crossings further east at Gallions Reach and Belvedere to improve connectivity and support growth
- Crossings 'east of Silvertown' could provide additional public transport connections and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists

The remainder of this presentation focuses on the Silvertown Tunnel. For details of our plans for crossings at Gallions Reach and Belvedere, please see [www.tfl.gov.uk/new-river-crossings](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/new-river-crossings)

# The Silvertown Tunnel

- A new twin-bore tunnel to link Silvertown & the Greenwich Peninsula
- Two traffic lanes in each direction, in a separate bore. One lane in each direction will be reserved for buses and freight.
- The soonest that the tunnel could be open is 2021/2022.
- User charging to manage demand and help pay for construction



## Benefits – reduction in congestion

- Congestion addressed and journey times reduced:
  - Current Lewisham - Stratford AM peak journey time is 45 minutes
  - In 2021, this will increase to 53 minutes
  - With Silvertown and user charging the 2021 journey time would reduce to 40 minutes
- Resilience of the network improves so impact of incidents greatly reduced
- Supports economic and population growth in east London
- Creates opportunities for new public transport connections across the river



*Map to show the effects of the Silvertown Tunnel in reducing morning peak delays in 2021*

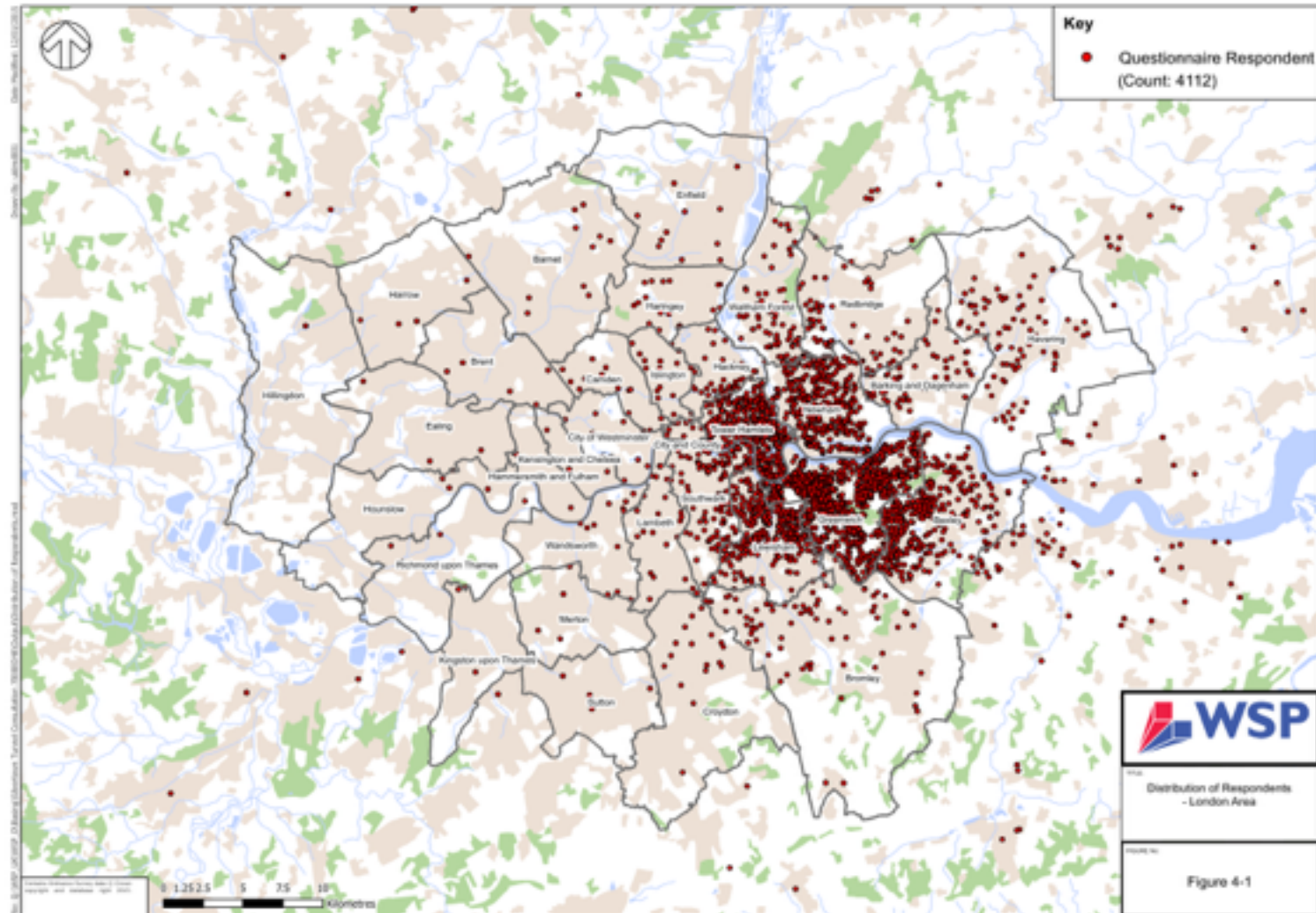
## Opportunities for new bus links

- Even with major investment in the rail network, there are certain corridors where connectivity by public transport could be enhanced
- A key priority for east London is improving access to jobs
- The Silvertown tunnel will address the congestion that impacts on bus service reliability and performance today
- It is being design to allow for full height clearance by double deck vehicles with a dedicated lane in each direction currently planned for bus/freight traffic
- This creates major opportunities for new bus connections across the river – focusing on those corridors less well connected by rail



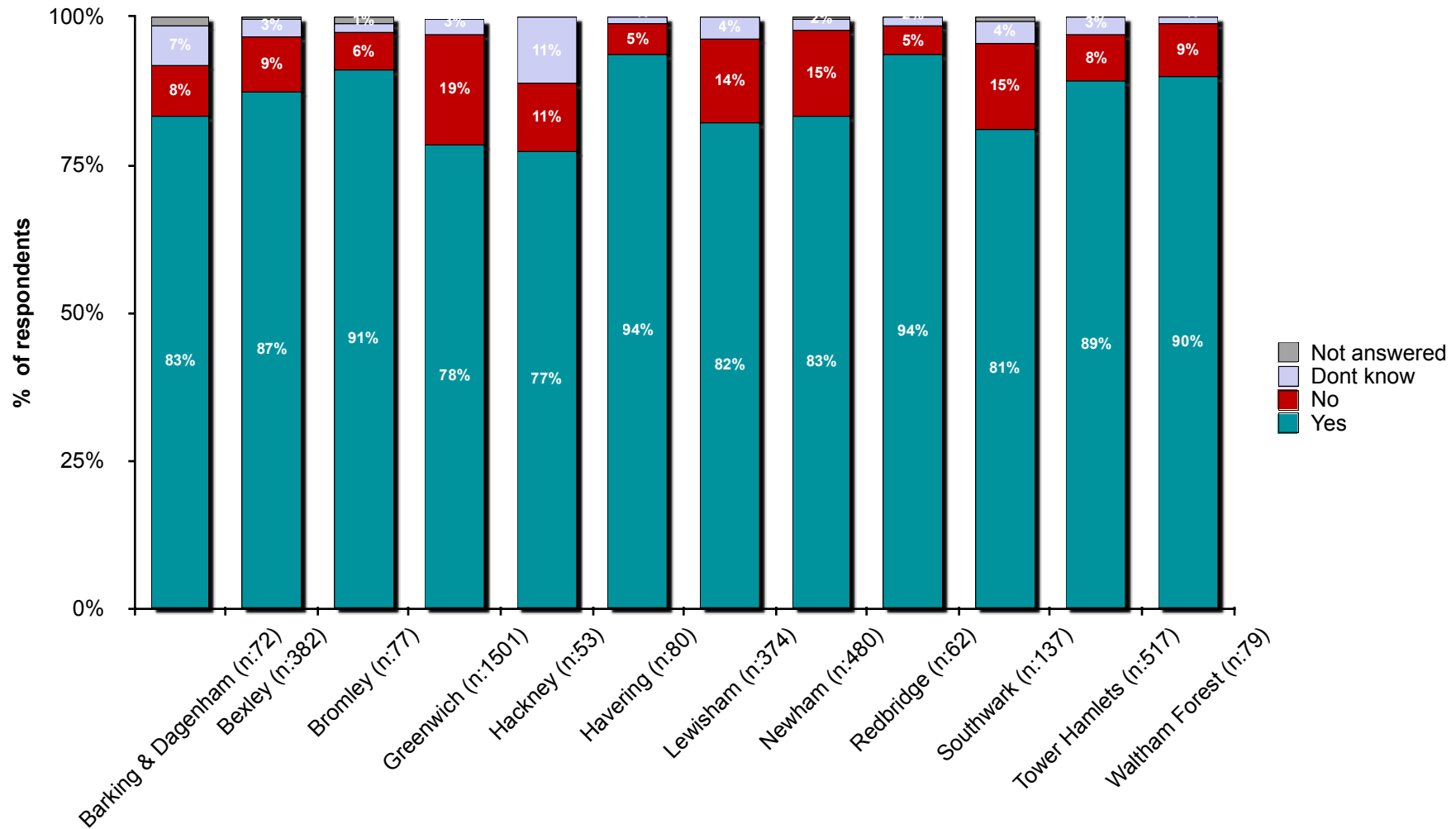
**Eltham to Canary Wharf by bus with Silvertown – c35minutes**

## Consultation results



# Views on the scheme

Do you agree that there is a case for the Silvertown Tunnel? 83% - Yes, 14% - No, 3% - Don't know



## Key timings & next steps

- Spring 2015 - Publish our response to the issues raised in our consultation on the Silvertown Tunnel – review ongoing
- Autumn 2015 - Formal consultation on the Silvertown Tunnel to finalise the scheme
- Spring 2016 – Submission of application for Development Consent Order
- Late 2017 – Decision from the Secretary of State for Transport
- 2018 – Construction could start
- 2022/23 – Silvertown Tunnel opens

Questions?

[www.tfl.gov.uk/silvertown-tunnel](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/silvertown-tunnel)

rivercrossings@tfl.gov.uk

[www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)