

In terms of height, the PLA's view is that the proposed tower already forms a compromise with regard to reusing existing infrastructure rather than a demolition and complete rebuild. The tower essentially is intended to back up the Port Control Centre, and a direct comparison would have been realised at 40m AGL (Above Ground Level), so in the event of failure at PCC, the VTS service from Denton would already be degraded at the current proposed height.

To maintain a communications link to Southend for all vessels currently going into London Gateway, the tower would be required to reach 80m, whilst maintaining a link to Erith, Bexley for all vessels that would fit under the QE2 bridge would require a 55m tower.

A tower height of 35m is suitable for most vessels between Denton and Erith and the final proposed height of 31 metres has been accepted internally as acceptable, which will provide an adequate (but still degraded) level of VHF (vessel communications) coverage. A lower height than the current proposed would result in further degradation of potential coverage.