

Latest idea from Boris – a bridge over Channel

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Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson has floated the idea of building a bridge across the English Channel to link the UK with France.

Mr Johnson, who as Mayor of London sought to promote the idea of an offshore island airport for north Kent, has apparently turned his attention to another controversial idea.

He is understood to have broached the idea with the French president Emmanuel Macron during his visit last week.

In a tweet, he said: "I'm especially pleased we are establishing a panel of experts to look at major projects together."

"Our economic success depends on good infrastructure and good connections. Should the Channel Tunnel be just a first step?"

But some experts have questioned the viability of a bridge crossing what is the busiest shipping channel in the world.

A report in the Daily Telegraph said the Foreign Secretary believed there should be more than one rail link connecting what he said were Europe's two biggest economies.

Mr Johnson is said to think a bridge could also be possible, telling aides that such feats of engineering have been achieved in Japan.



Eurotunnel freight trains at the Folkestone terminal - after the tunnel, could a bridge be next?

The idea has won the support of Dover MP Charlie Elphicke, who said: "Boris is right. We absolutely must invest in infrastructure to keep trade flowing between Britain and France."

"Let's start by dualling the A2 to Dover and building the Lower Thames Crossing and lorry parks on the M20."

"Surely it's not a bridge too far for the government to invest in Kent."

Mr Johnson is said to have told aides: "Technology is

moving on all the time and there are much longer bridges elsewhere, including one that is 34 miles long in Japan."

A Downing Street spokesman told the BBC: "What the foreign secretary tweeted about is a panel of experts who will look at major projects together, including infrastructure."

Guinness World Records says that Lake Pontchartrain Causeway in Louisiana, USA, is the longest bridge over continuous water at 23.79 miles.



Boris Johnson



Food queue at the Jungle, Calais

Elphicke rejects president's call for help

A demand from the French president that the UK do more to help police their borders has been given short shrift by Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke.

Emmanuel Macron made an official visit to Calais on Tuesday last week to see how the authorities there were coping with the continuing issue of would-be migrants in the town.

During his visit he said he would be taking up the issue of greater financial help from the



MP Charlie Elphicke

UK government. At the same time, he said France would not allow a new camp to take

root in Calais despite several hundred migrants gathered there. M Macron said: "In no case will we allow another Jungle here."

But a suggestion the UK should shoulder more of the financial burden of dealing with migrants was rejected by Mr Elphicke.

He said: "British taxpayers are fed up of the French constantly demanding more money to help police their borders. We've already handed over millions to bolster secu-

riety in Calais and dismantle the Jungle migrant camp. It's time President Macron and his team got a grip of the situation rather than keep asking us for more cash."

The UK has met the costs of building a wall at the port to deter would-be migrants from getting on to lorries travelling through the tunnel to the UK at an estimated £2.6m.

M Macron was on his way to the UK last week to hold talks with Prime Minister Theresa May.



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