

News Release

01-476 3000

London Docklands
Development Corporation

Thames House
Basin South
London E16 2QY
Telex 894041 LDDC G
Telecopier 01-511 2115

4 September 1987

1987 - THE YEAR OF ARRIVAL

London Docklands 1986/87 Annual Report and Accounts

An estimated 25,000 new homes - including rented and shared ownership schemes - will be completed in Docklands by 1994, 12,000 more than originally projected by the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) in 1981.

This substantial increase in the provision of new homes in Docklands is highlighted in the LDDC's 1986/87 Annual Report and Accounts published this week. Early targets of 9000 new homes on Corporation land and 4000 homes on land in private or local authority ownership have now been increased to 16,000 and 9000 respectively. To date 12,000 homes have been built or are under construction throughout the area; about 60% of the new homes on LDDC land have been sold for £40,000 or less and 40% of those on Corporation land have been bought by residents of the three Docklands boroughs.

The LDDC is determined to achieve "an integrated society with many different types of housing, including provision for those who wish to rent, rather than buy, attractive, modern accommodation," says LDDC Chairman, Christopher Benson. "We have already gone a long way towards achieving a better balance between owner-occupation and rented housing in Docklands, now we have the confidence of that achievement to initiate a greater mix of more varied types of tenure within our different localities

that together make up Docklands."

The Corporation is already pursuing a range of social housing initiatives including the provision of more than 300 local authority homes at Western Dock and Hermitage Wall, in Wapping, and at Masthouse Terrace on the Isle of Dogs, in co-operation with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

By 1986 an estimated 10,000 jobs had come into Docklands, mainly in the financial and service industries. The total number of jobs in Docklands is expected to grow to 80,000 by 1991 and to more than 200,000 by the turn of the century.

"There is now a choice for local people in the two key components of any community - jobs and homes," says LDDC Chief Executive, Reg Ward. "The future job opportunities will be immense, the new businesses are from the growth sectors; the necessary training is now available for local people to acquire the new skills needed."

Skillnet, the joint collaborative venture between the LDDC, the London Borough of Newham and the Inner London Education Authority which provides vocational and education training for the over 16s, will, up to September 1987, have filled 1000 training places. In 1986 the Docklands New Technology Centre (ITEC) trained 72 local youngsters; all found jobs, many with local firms. A Youth Enterprise Centre, offering young people who want to start their own businesses, low cost accommodation for up to two years, is being set up in Southwark and another is planned for the Royal Docks. Two of Docklands' newest employers, Docklands Light Railway and London City Airport, both of whom have been recruiting locally, will also be providing training.

1987 is the year of arrival of Docklands, concludes Reg Ward, with the major thrust of Docklands' new communications structure being substantially achieved. The opening of London City Airport in October

will restore the Royal Docks as an international gateway with flights to the capital cities of Western Europe and major UK cities. The 7.5 mile phase one of the Docklands Light Railway was opened by HM The Queen on 30 July and construction of the Western Extension, into Bank Station, will begin soon following the signing of the Canary Wharf Master Building Agreement with Olympia and York. Earlier this year Government announced its support for the Bill currently in Parliament which would authorise the eastern extension of the system from Poplar to Beckton. In addition a new private company has been formed to bring a high speed riverbus service onto the Thames and back to the centre of London's public transport network.

A new road system for Docklands has long been a priority with the concentration of new commercial and residential development highlighting the inadequacy of the existing roads and of the schemes adopted by the Greater London Council in 1980, but which remained unbuilt. In July 1986 the LDDC unveiled a £190 million programme to provide 15 miles of new high capacity roads, from Limehouse in the west to the Royal Docks in the east, underlining that this has been the most significant year for communications, destined to make Docklands the most accessible area in London.

For further information contact:

LDDC Press Office

Thames House

Basin South

London E16 2QY

Tel: 01-476 3000