

News Release



London Docklands
Development Corporation

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LDDC COMPLETES REMIT ON ISLE OF DOGS AND SOUTH POPLAR

The London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) officially completes its regeneration remit on the Isle of Dogs and in South Poplar tomorrow (10 October 1997), with the Corporation handing on its responsibilities to British Waterways (BW) and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH).

The agreement reached by three bodies on the hand on of responsibilities covers:

- the transfer of the West India/Millwall Dock Estate to BW
- the handover of the LDDC's public open spaces (other than the dock estate) to LBTH
- a £1 million programme of investment by the Council and the Corporation in schemes to support local communities in the transitional period following the completion of the LDDC's remit on the Isle of Dogs and in South Poplar
- a longer term investment in community support through endowments to the Isle of Dogs Community Foundation, totalling some £2.04 million; and the transfer to the Cedar Centre of the freehold of its premises
- the transfer to BW and LBTH of revenue producing assets to balance the liabilities which they will inherit.

Sir Michael Pickard, Chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation, said: "Sixteen years ago, the Isle of Dogs was an isolated, tightly knit community seemingly in the grip of irreversible decline. Today, massive investment from both the public and private sectors has transformed the area. There are new schools, health centres and homes, parks and playgrounds, new road and rail links, and nearly 1.4 million sq. metres of commercial and industrial development, over 80% let.

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"The new residents and businesses have brought a fresh lifeblood to the Island. For regeneration to continue, it is essential that the local communities - both new and old - work together, generous in spirit, word and deed, to ensure that the opportunities before them are not missed."

Transfer of the Dock Estate to British Waterways: The Corporation hands on the dock estate to BW as a going concern, including the transfer of staff and equipment. The Corporation is also transferring its interests in the sites at West Ferry Printers and West India Quay to offset the revenue deficits which the docks will incur. A local consultative forum - the Management Advisory Group has been established. It will include representatives from the local residential and business communities and user groups, as well as from BW and LBTH. It will be chaired by local MP, Jim Fitzpatrick.

Transfer of Public Open Space to the Council: The Council assumes responsibility from the Corporation for various public open spaces, river walls and riverside walkways. The revenue liability arising from the maintenance of these will in part be offset by the transfer to the Council of income from the freehold of the Travelodge Hotel which Granada is developing at East India Dock.

Endowment to Isle of Dogs Community Foundation: The LDDC is making an endowment to the Isle of Dogs Community Foundation of £1,046 million. This is in addition to separate agreements by the LDDC to endow the Foundation with £300,000 for the benefit of Millwall Park and its neighbourhood and £650,000 to enable it to fund training for employment schemes in partnership with others. The Corporation is also transferring the freeholds of Jack Dash House and the Docklands Sailing Centre to the Foundation. In total these contributions to the Foundation amount to £2.04 million. This will enable the Foundation to undertake a substantial programme of grants for community activities into the long term.

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Transfer of Cedar Centre's Freehold: The Corporation is giving a grant of £75,000 to a local community facility, the Cedar Centre, to enable it to acquire the freehold of its premises. This will improve the Centre's finances by more than £10,000 a year.

Joint Programme of Community Support: Following consultation with local community representatives, the Council and the Corporation, have agreed to a £1 million joint programme of investment in community activities and facilities in Millwall and Blackwall Wards over the next three years. The purpose is to support the communities during the period immediately following the completion of the LDDC's remit. The programmes are set out in the tables attached.

The completion of the LDDC's regeneration remit on the Isle of Dogs leaves only the Royal Docks under the Corporation's jurisdiction. The LDDC will cease operations completely on 31 March 1998.

- ends -

For further information, contact:

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NOTE TO EDITORS

1. ISLE OF DOGS REGENERATION STATISTICS

- **Over 23,000 people now live on the Isle of Dogs and in South Poplar (15,500 in 1981)**
- **Over 37,000 people work in the area (7,600 in 1985)**
- **Over 4,000 new homes have been built**
- **1.5 million sq. metres of commercial and industrial development has been built or is under construction**

2. LDDC INVESTMENT IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The London Docklands Development Corporation has invested more than £51 million in projects to benefit communities on the Isle of Dogs and in South Poplar.

This includes contributions towards:

- **the refurbishment of 1,700 local authority homes and environmental improvements to 760 others**
- **nearly £15 million on education and training initiatives, including grants for extensions and improvements to local schools, the Island's first new primary school for 20 years and the Tower Hamlets Post-16 College**
- **three new health centres**
- **nearly 500 new social homes built**
- **£9 million invested in parks, leisure and recreation activities and £5 million invested in community centres and local amenities, including shopping**
- **refurbishment of the docks as a sports and recreational amenity with full public access**
- **brand new road, rail and bus transport network opening up the area to the City, the West End and the rest of London**

3. DEDESIGNATION OF LONDON DOCKLANDS

To date, the LDDC has dedesignated the following areas: Bermondsey Riverside (31 October 1994); Beckton (31 December 1995); Surrey Docks (20 December 1996) and Wapping and Limehouse (31 January 1997).

The LDDC will complete its remit in the Royal Docks on 31 March 1998 at which date it will cease operations.

LDDC/COUNCIL JOINT INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

BLACKWALL WARD

PROJECT	DURATION	LBTH CONTRIB	LDDC CONTRIB
Robin Hood Gardens Estate Worker	3 years	£25,000 (1 year)	£50,000 (2 years)
Robin Hood Gardens security and environmental improvements	This year	£38,000	£45,000
St Matthias part-time Care Worker	3 years	£7,500 (1 year)	£15,000 (2 years)
SPLASH Administrator	3 years	£30,000 (1½ years)	£30,000 (1½ years)
Community Gardener	3 years	£22,500 (1½ years)	£22,500 (1½ years)
Poplar Play health and safety works	Immediate		£30,000
TOTAL		£123,000	£192,500

MILLWALL WARD

PROJECT	DURATION COST	LBTH CONTRIB	LDDC CONTRIB
Drugs Outreach Worker	3 years @ £25,000 pa	£25,000	£50,000
School Community Coordinator at George Green School	3 years @ £25,000 pa	£25,000	£50,000
Part-time Coordinator for support to elderly (probably Age Concern)	3 years @ £17,000 pa	£17,000	£34,000
Refurbish Kelson House playground	1997		£100,000
Phase II of Alice Shepherd House window renewals	1997	£75,000	£75,000
Environmental improvements to St John's Estate	1997	£10,000	£58,000
Yarrow House window renewals	1997	£45,000	£45,000
Refurbishment of Cardale St and Hickin St	1997	£24,000	£24,000
Furnishing & computer for St John's Community Association	1997		£6,000
Modernise kitchen of Strafford Friendship Club	1997		£5,000
Arnhem Wharf School - environmental improvements	1997		£54,000
TOTAL		£221,000	£501,000

TOTAL
£1,037,500