

# News Release



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## **URBAN CHANGE - THE INSIDE STORIES BEHIND LONDON DOCKLANDS**

The London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) is approaching the end of its regeneration remit. By March 1998 the LDDC's responsibilities will have been transferred to the three Docklands boroughs and other successor bodies including English Partnerships and British Waterways.

Throughout its 16 years the world's largest regeneration project has been the subject of controversy and has aroused both enthusiasm and concern. In a bid to tell the whole story of the development the LDDC is producing a series of publications revealing the background behind the regeneration of the 8.5 square miles of the Urban Development Area and telling the story of the projects from the inside.

The first, "*Initiating Urban Change*", is a fascinating publication produced this month (July), which considers the massive economic and social changes in this area of East London - once home to the busiest port in the world - prior to the setting up of the London Docklands Development Corporation in 1981.

It reviews the series of planning and various regeneration exercises that were put forward to combat the progressive closure of the docks and which led to the LDDC's establishment.

"*Starting From Scratch*", also published this month, tells the remarkable story behind the planning and building of the Docklands transport network, summarising the approach and describing the detailed evolution of the multi-million pound projects in Docklands and East London.

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It provides a chronological resumé of events over the 16 year period, the development of key elements of the transport system such as the Docklands Light Railway, Jubilee Line extension and the construction of over 130 km of roads - including the Limehouse Link Tunnel - and London City Airport.

*"Starting From Scratch"* reviews the lessons learned in providing a modern state-of-the-art transport system that has had a considerable impact, not only on the development and subsequent success of Docklands, but on the Capital's transport infrastructure as a whole.

In the earliest days of regeneration the LDDC identified that the provision of new transport links to connect an area historically cut off from the rest of London was the vital catalyst that would trigger successful investment and generate subsequent economic prosperity.

Improving accessibility and changing the perception that Docklands was cut-off from the rest of London were the LDDC's greatest challenges. As such, over the last 16 years more than £1.5 billion (excluding Jubilee Line costs) has been invested in providing London Docklands with a transport infrastructure which is now fully integrated into the Capital's public and private transport network and links the area into mainstream metropolitan life.

*"Initiating Urban Change"* priced at £4.95 and *"Starting From Scratch"* priced at £11.95 are available from the LDDC Visitor Centre, 3 Limeharbour, London E14,  
Tel: 0171 512 1111. Further publications are planned in the series.

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