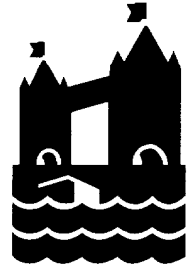


News Release

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LDDC AND NEWHAM COUNCIL SIGN AGREEMENT ON BECKTON

Completion of the London Docklands Development Corporation's (LDDC) task in Beckton is on course for 31 December 1995 following the signing of an agreement between the LDDC and London Borough of Newham.

The Council and the Corporation have agreed the transfer of more than 40 acres of LDDC owned open spaces and other responsibilities to the Council in return for LDDC grants and support for projects to complete the area's community facilities.

Key points of the agreement include:-

- * The LDDC will contribute £3.98 million toward the £5 million East Beckton District Centre. Work on the centre which will house a library, technology suite, youth house, community education facility, drop-in centre and crèche is due to start later this month.**
- * The LDDC has contributed £1.2 million to the newly established Royal Docks Trust to secure continuation of the voluntary sector grants programme in Beckton, run in partnership with Newham which is a major funder of voluntary groups in the area.**
- * Among other areas, the Council will take ownership of Beckton Alps in exchange for a £456,000 LDDC grant. This has enabled the Council to acquire the land for the new primary school at Winsor Park.**
- * The LDDC and the Council will continue to work together to secure secondary school provision south of the A13.**

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- * **Strategic highways in the area - Royal Docks Road and Royal Albert Way will remain in the LDDC's ownership. The two authorities will work together to achieve improvements to the A406/A13 junction.**
- * **The LDDC will complete a number of initiatives in the area including a new health centre, play facilities, further landscaping, pedestrian links and road improvements.**

LDDC Chief Executive, Eric Sorensen, comments: "Beckton was the first area of major residential development in London Docklands building on infrastructure work already carried out by the Council and is now an established residential community. Since the first new homes were built in 1982, the area has been in continuous demand by first time buyers and families. This agreement secures high quality community facilities for the present community and future generations. It also sets a firm base for the Council's regeneration programme. I am confident that the area, with its excellent transport links, has a bright future and we look forward to our continued partnership with Newham to regenerate the Royal Docks."

Leader of Newham Council, Councillor Mike Brown, said, " A good partnership between the Council and the LDDC has developed, which has enabled us to reach agreement on the handover of Beckton at the end of the year and to work with the LDDC to achieve the transformation and handover of the Royal Docks. The plans for this area of Newham Docklands, together with the redevelopment of Stratford and the Thames Gateway initiative provide a very exciting future for the borough with the opportunity for jobs, better housing and community facilities."

The Achievement in Beckton

In 1981 when the LDDC was set up, Beckton, covering 807 acres, was predominantly marshland with the former Beckton Gas Works at its eastern boundary and small pockets of housing mostly rented. Although the Port of London Authority announced the formal closure of the Royal Docks to the south in November 1981 employment in the

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area was limited. Social, leisure and community facilities were poor, as was shopping and public transport. Progress had been made by the Council with new houses, local roads and the first phase of East Beckton District Centre, including ASDA. Development had commenced on London Industrial Park and a range of warehousing units.

Since 1981 the population of Beckton has more than trebled from 5,106 to 17,860 with some 4,600 homes built: 60% for owner occupation, 27% shared equity, self build and housing association, and 12% built by the Council. A range of facilities have been supported by the LDDC including in five primary schools, two health centres, a children's centre and a church centre.

Shopping has been improved with the development of Beckton Retail Park, next to the London Industrial Park and the 135,000 sq.ft. Savacentre next to the A13. In the centre of the area Beckton District Park includes a lake sports centre, sports pitches and exercise trail. The LDDC has helped fund the extension of Newham City Farm, livery stables at Stansfeld Road and the Docklands Equestrian Centre.

The Process

An order will be laid in Parliament by the Secretary of State for the Environment in November to exclude the Beckton area from the LDDC's boundaries as of 31 December 1995 (Section 179 of the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993). From that date the LDDC's development control powers in Beckton will transfer to the London Borough of Newham.

The LDDC will have eight weeks to complete determination of planning applications it receives on or before 31 December 1995. Any outstanding at that date will transfer to Newham Council to decide. From 1 January 1996 all planning applications should be submitted to Newham.

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Note to Editors

- * The LDDC completed its remit in Bermondsey Riverside on 31 October 1994.
- * The indicative timetable for dedesignation of the remaining London Docklands Urban Development Area is:

Wapping	1996
Surrey Docks	1996
Limehouse	1996
Isle of Dogs, Poplar and West Leamouth	1997
The Royal Docks	31 March 1998

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