

# News Release

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## LEWISHAM EXTENSION "EXCELLENT NEWS" FOR LONDON DOCKLANDS

The Government's go-ahead for the deposit of a Private Bill to extend the Docklands Light Railway south of the River Thames to Lewisham, has been welcomed as "excellent news" for London Docklands, by David Hardy, Chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC).

Mr Hardy commented: "The Docklands Light Railway Lewisham extension will provide an extremely valuable new public transport cross river link. It will open up London Docklands to the wide catchment areas of Greenwich, Lewisham and the surrounding regions, which will all be able to benefit and contribute to its success. This news confirms that London Docklands will soon have the most modern and advanced transport communications network in the country.

"£3 billion is already being invested in transport infrastructure in London Docklands, and many projects are already in place. With excellent business communications facilities and London City Airport within minutes of the commercial districts of the Isle of Dogs and Canary Wharf, London Docklands is now firmly positioned to emerge as a major international, financial and business centre."

The 4 km extension will run from just south of a new Mudchute station on the Isle of Dogs, under the Thames, to Greenwich and Lewisham, with five new stations south of the river.

Notes to Editors:

London Transport will now sponsor the Bill, which is being deposited this month and has all party support, through Parliament. The Bill will allow London Transport to let a concession to a private sector company to build and operate the extension. The project will proceed once London Transport has secured an acceptable privately financed scheme.

London Transport will be conducting a tender competition for the concession to design, build, own, toll and transfer the extension.

The extension will cut rail journey times to Canary Wharf from Lewisham from 39 minutes at present, to just 16 minutes, and it is estimated that an extra half a million people living south of the River Thames will be within 45 minutes' journey time of Canary Wharf.

It is expected that the line will cost £130 million at today's prices. It could be open by 1995.

For further information contact:

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**Notes to Editors:**

Edmund Nuttall Limited was awarded the contract from six construction companies that were invited to tender. The firm's previous work in London Docklands includes construction of the £27 million Royal Albert Dock Spine Road, completed earlier this year and the Tidal Basin Station, also in the Royal Docks.