

# News Release



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## LONDON DOCKLANDS ENTERPRISE ZONE ENDS

The London Docklands Enterprise Zone (EZ), set up in 1982 for ten years offering planning and financial advantages for investors and developers to boost urban regeneration, ended at midnight on 25 April. Any development in the EZ area which commences on or after 26 April will now require planning permission in the normal way.

The Enterprise Zone, forming 482 acres/195 hectares centred on the once derelict West India Docks area of the Isle of Dogs, proved an effective device for attracting investment and development to London Docklands. To date around £9 million has been invested in Docklands - a large proportion of this in the EZ.

London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) Chairman Michael Pickard said: "The Enterprise Zone scheme put London Docklands on the map for investors and developers. It provided the essential impetus to open up the Isle of Dogs as a viable commercial centre."

In Planning terms, ending of the EZ scheme means:

- \* Planning consents granted under the EZ will cease to have effect, except where development authorised by the scheme has commenced.
- \* Development begun before expiry (25 April) can be legally completed, without the need to seek planning permission.

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- \* New development commenced on or after 26 April will require normal planning permission.
  
- \* Buildings begun or completed (but not occupied) can be used for the use they were designed for. Different uses will require planning permission.

The LDDC, as the planning authority for the London Docklands area (Urban Development Area (UDA)) covering parts of Tower Hamlets, Newham and Southwark, will from now on deal with all planning matters in the normal manner like any other authority.

The Corporation has prepared the way for the ending of the scheme by establishing a detailed register of all buildings and land use in the EZ area as at 25 April. The register identifies all forms of development which have commenced or been completed during the scheme with deemed EZ planning permission.

The register - enhanced by site-by-site details and aerial photography - will act as a benchmark for all future planning purposes in the Isle of Dogs area by the LDDC. All developers and occupiers in the EZ area were contacted with full details of the planning situation/status affecting them and now have letters confirming their position.

- ENDS -

For further information, contact:

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