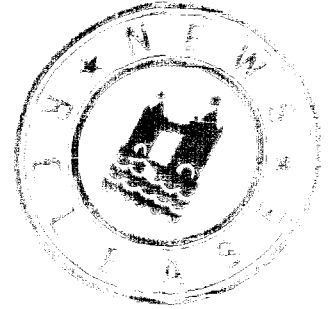
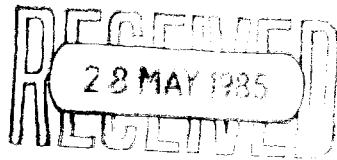


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LDDC WELCOMES GOVERNMENT GO-AHEAD FOR ROYAL DOCKS STOLPORT

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London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) has welcomed today's announcement by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Patrick Jenkin, to grant outline planning permission for the proposed STOLport in London's Royal Docks.

LDDC's Chief Executive, Mr Reg Ward said: "We are delighted that following the long and rigorous public inquiry, in which all interested parties have put their case, the Inspector's recommendation to grant planning permission has been approved by Mr Jenkin.

"We have made it clear from the start that we were in support of the STOLport project not only because of the substantial number of direct and linked jobs it will create, but because it would be the catalyst needed to make the Royal Docks the development hub for future regeneration. STOLport will rekindle the international gateway role of the Royal Docks that was extinguished by dock closures."

Commenting on the opposition of some local residents to the scheme, Mr Ward emphasised that two separate research surveys from reputable independent research companies had shown local people were 2:1 in favour of the STOLport being built.

"We understand why some local people are concerned", said Mr Ward, "We and Mowlem hope we can finally allay their worries so that, once the project is underway, those who currently oppose the project will join with the rest of the community in supporting the fastest possible completion of the airport, and share our view that it is vital to the regeneration of the Royal Docks and to the existing community's longer-term interests."

ENDS

For further information contact LDDC Press Office on 515 3000 Ext 376