

News Release

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PRIME MINISTER OPENS

LIMEHOUSE LINK

New Road Opens on Schedule

Linking London Docklands to the City

The 1.8km Limehouse Link, the new dual carriageway built to improve access to London Docklands, was opened today by The Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. John Major M.P.

The Prime Minister also opened the East India Dock Link (westbound), a 350 metre tunnel connecting the A13 with Aspen Way and the Preston's Road Flyover. The ceremony marked the completion of the Docklands highways network, a series of new and improved roads planned, designed, and built by the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) in just over seven years.

London Docklands Development Corporation Chairman, Michael Pickard, said: "The opening of the Limehouse Link and East India Dock Link, is a major boost to confidence in London Docklands and provides the final proof that the area is one of the most accessible in the capital. From today the drivetime between Tower Bridge and London City Airport will be only 15 minutes, with shorter journey times for everyone who lives and works in London Docklands."

At the western end of the network the £255 million Limehouse Link has been built under the Limehouse Basin, minimising the loss of homes, and safeguarding the historic amenity of Limehouse. The tunnel connects the eastern side of the City at Tower Bridge with the Isle of Dogs business district, centred on Canary Wharf, and travels further east to Aspen Way at North Quay.

Designed by Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners, the Limehouse Link has been built by Balfour Beatty AMEC Joint Venture. Construction started in November 1989. The section to Westferry Road has been completed on schedule, and to North Quay five and a half months ahead of time.

Edmund Nuttall Limited commenced construction of the Mott MacDonald designed East India Dock Link in November 1990 as part of a £35 million contract which also included the Preston's Road Flyover and adjoining surface roads (Aspen Way east). Traffic will be westbound only until 1996 when major works by the Department of Transport, west of Canning Flyover, will complete the link onto the A13 East India Dock Road. The East India Dock Link connects with the Lower Lea Crossing and in turn to the Royal Docks and the national motorway network.

Under the Accord with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, the LDDC has rehoused 570 Council tenants directly affected by the road schemes and refurbished a number of other properties near the line of the new roads. It is also providing £35 million for social and community initiatives to benefit Tower Hamlets' residents.

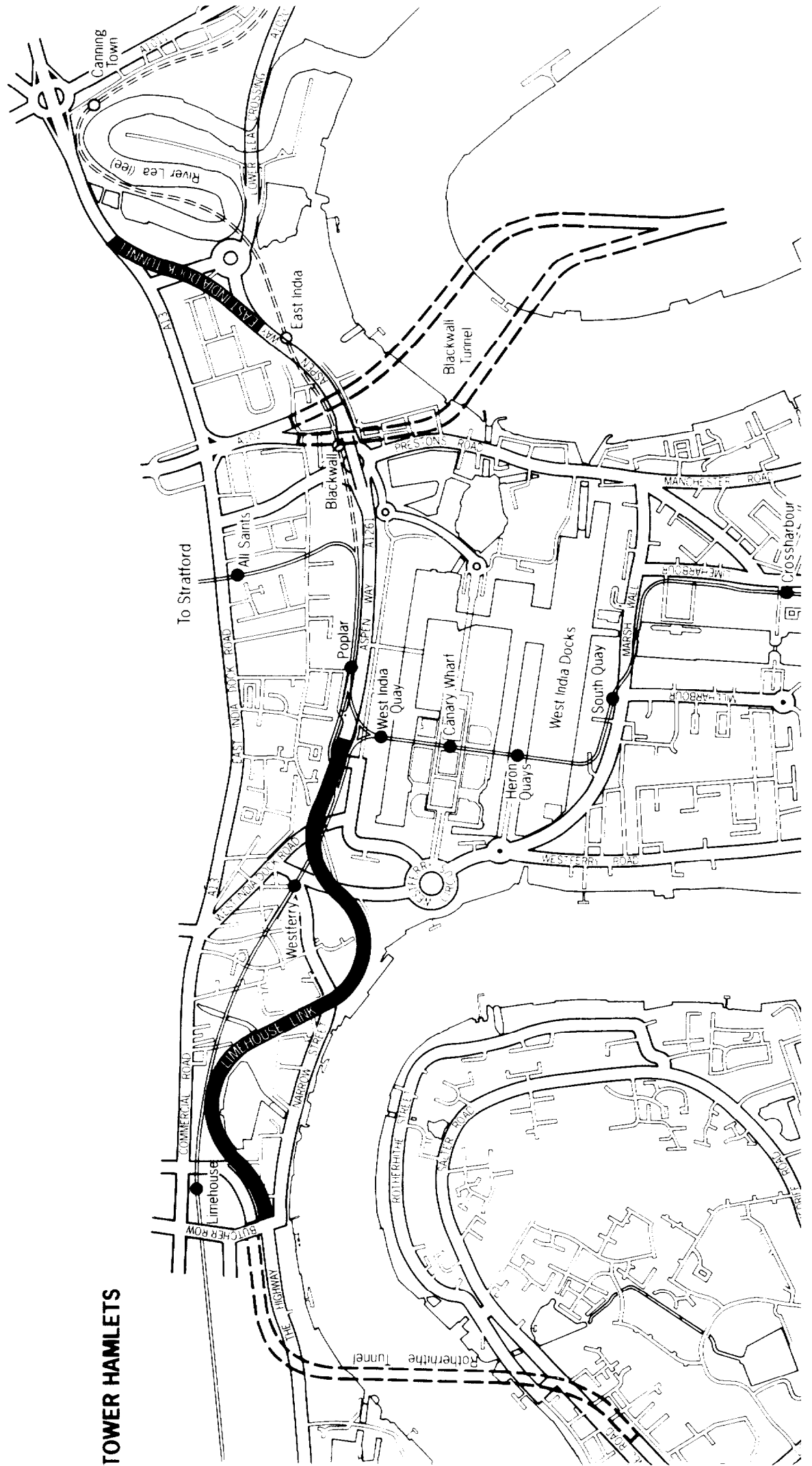
These new routes, together with the Department of Transport's national trunk road schemes in East London now underway, will give the area the road network it needs. The Docklands highways have been designed and built to serve residents and businesses in a fully developed Docklands. Public transport will play an increasingly important part in carrying most people to work.

Notes to Editors

For further information please contact the LDDC Press Office:

071 512 0444 during office hours
071 512 3000 after hours.

Limehouse to Leamouth Roads



TOWER HAMLETS