

News Release

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STRONG SUPPORT FOR ACTION ON EAST THAMES CORRIDOR AND CHANNEL RAIL LINK

"The Government's positive response to the East Thames Corridor Report is a vital commitment to building up the economy of East London", said London Docklands Development Corporation Chief Executive, Eric Sorensen, commenting on the publication of the East Thames Corridor Report today.

"London Docklands is a cornerstone of this great enterprise. The Government's initiatives mark the channelling of long term growth into a neglected part of England which nevertheless has immense potential.

"The East Thames Corridor will become the gateway between the converging economies of Britain and continental Europe. The Royal Docks in London Docklands are rightly designated as the major focus for growth at the western end of the corridor. We welcome the proposals for the eastern alignment of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and for the associated Union Metro commuter services to and through the Royals via a new river crossing at Woolwich. The Government is setting an exciting agenda for change and growth."

Michael Howard, Secretary of State for the Environment, today announced his intention to establish a Task Force to spearhead development of the East Thames Corridor to boost long term economic growth, when he issued the consultants' report on the prospects of the East Thames Corridor and launched the draft South East Regional Planning Guidance.

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