

News Release

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25th November 1991

LONDON DOCKLANDS : MORE JOBS, MORE TRAINING, UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FALLS

- Jobs survey announced
- £30 million in LDDC projects

Jobs in London Docklands have reached 53,000 and the rate of unemployment - up in London and the South East - has fallen despite the recession, the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) revealed today.

LDDC projects worth over £30 million have also much improved training and education in the Urban Development Area. London Docklands can now deliver quality training for every Docklands resident who wants it.

LDDC Chief Executive Eric Sorensen said that the Corporation - criticised for its jobs and training performance by Parliament in 1988 - is now delivering positive action programmes on all the issues raised.

"Jobs are increasing, training has been revolutionised and the LDDC's support for education is very strong. The rate of unemployment in London Docklands is now below that for the three Docklands boroughs as a whole and Inner London." he said.

"The jobs survey shows employment up 26% since 1987 and the total has nearly doubled since the LDDC began work in 1981. A third of all businesses have established in the area since 1988 and there is strong growth in new sustainable industries.

"There is enough capacity in place now to provide quality training of many kinds for all those unemployed in London Docklands. Education support has been sustained and far reaching. We believe London Docklands now has the best school pupil to computer ratio in the country."

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Mr Sorensen added that the £30 million spent by the LDDC in training and education since 1988 has also improved educational buildings - £10 million alone for the Tower Hamlets College on the Isle of Dogs - child-care support, training disabled people and has boosted local people's basic skills. In London Docklands one in every four persons need basic skill training.

The jobs survey, 'Employment Census 1990' published by the LDDC today, reports:

- * Jobs up to 53,000 now from 42,000 in 1987
- * Number of businesses doubled in ten years
- * Nearly 3/4 of employers established since 1981
- * 50% of new businesses have relocated to London Docklands and 50% are new business start ups
- * 24% of employees in banking, finance and other business services with 23% of employees in manufacturing

The LDDC today also issued a progress report on action following the 1988 Parliamentary Employment Committee report "The Employment Effects of Urban Development Corporations (UDCs) ". The report's recommendations urged action by the LDDC (the largest UDC) on working for more jobs, improving training , better relationships with local communities, authorities and schools and targeting the needs of disadvantaged groups.

Eric Sorensen said : "The LDDC has taken these recommendations seriously and good progress is being made. We have worked closely with the local education authorities, the Training and Enterprise Council and voluntary groups to improve training and employment opportunities.

" A good, well-trained local labour force is essential to secure a good future for London Docklands. With an estimated 200,000 jobs here after the year 2000 the LDDC is determined to work with other organisations to ensure that local people have the opportunity and the skills to benefit fully".

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION : LDDC Press Office
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EDITOR'S NOTES :

Media copies of the LDDC employment survey and a booklet which outlines the Corporation's 'Education, Enterprise Employment' strategies, projects and spending are available from the LDDC Press Office (071- 512 0444/3000).

How the Unemployment Rate for London Docklands is Calculated

1. The Department of Employment produces a rate of unemployment for London and other regions but not for borough or smaller areas such as London Docklands (Urban Development Area) because they do not represent self contained labour markets.
2. For these borough and smaller areas the rate of unemployment is calculated differently. For these areas the number unemployed is calculated as a percentage of the local resident population eligible for work ie. the economically active population.
3. This is the basis on which the London Research Centre produce unemployment rates for London Boroughs and how the LDDC produce an estimate for the unemployment rate in the Urban Development Area.