

News Release



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SURVEYS HIGHLIGHT RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES VIEWS OF LONDON DOCKLANDS

Two new MORI surveys of residents and businesses in London Docklands, released today, highlight the progress made by the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) over recent years, but also show the challenges remaining as the Corporation completes its remit.

Brian Grosschalk, Managing Director of MORI, said: "The results show that while Docklands faces similar problems to other parts of inner London in terms of concern about crime, education and the lack of facilities for young people, most local residents feel the area has improved over the last decade."

Eric Sorensen, Chief Executive of London Docklands Development Corporation, said: "MORI's survey tells us what residents and businesses really think about progress in London Docklands and their priorities for the future. We listen to the messages. They are consistent with what we have learnt through our regular channels of communication. Our programme priorities already reflect the concerns of local people and businesses in such areas as employment, amenities and facilities for young people. We will continue to build on these priorities."

RESIDENTS

Six out of ten residents feel the area has changed for the better over the last ten years (58%), with one in five feeling it has got worse (20%). Residents feel that the appearance of the area has improved, and see the Docklands Light Railway, new homes for local people, new people moving to the area, and more shops as the main positive changes. The minority who feel it has changed for the worse blame this on increased unemployment and loss of community spirit.

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Key issues for residents are education, crime, and a shortage of leisure facilities, particularly facilities for young people. While housing and public transport remain important, they are less so than four years ago when GALLUP carried out the last survey for the LDDC. Residents say they would like better public transport (35%), more shops (27%) and more facilities for young people (27%). Most say the LDDC has done a good job (58% good, 18% poor).

Residents are generally unaware that the LDDC is scheduled to complete its remit in March 1998, but one in three think that it will have a negative effect on the area (only 7% see it as an improvement), because of concern about possible loss of funding and at the ability of the local authorities to manage the area as effectively as a single body.

Residents want the LDDC to encourage more job opportunities (49%), support local training programmes (32%) and encourage more business start ups (29%).

BUSINESSES

Businesses share residents' generally positive views. Businesses rate Docklands telecommunications, quality of office space, and general working environment highly. Views of transport services are mixed; views of bus services, DLR and the physical condition of the roads are all positive, but divided over traffic control and critical of public car parks, BR services and on-street parking.

While there is criticism of shopping facilities, transport services, crime level and arts and leisure facilities in Docklands, most managers feel that the quality of life for business people has improved over the last decade (70%). They see an attractive environment (21%), improved facilities (20%) and better road links (17%) as the main reasons for this.

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As with residents, six in ten feel the LDDC has done a good job (61%), with one in five critical (19% poor). Those who rate its achievements as positive mentioned general improvements to the area (26%), helping business (13%), attractive architecture (13%) and good planning policy (12%). Most feel the LDDC does a good job of promoting Docklands (64%).

Key changes businesses want include more shops (24%), the Jubilee Line Extension (19%), better traffic flow (19%), more parking facilities (18%), better leisure facilities (13%) and a better DLR service (12%).

Although the majority of businesses know that the LDDC is completing its remit, few have a detailed knowledge about when it will affect their area (35% say they are unaware of the whole process). Most feel this will have no effect on their own business (15% believe it will have a negative impact) but 42% feel that the area will suffer as a result.

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Note to Editors

1. MORI interviewed 1,391 residents between 18 June - 12 August 1994 throughout London Docklands, face-to-face, in-home, and 508 managers of local businesses by telephone between 15 July - 8 August 1994. In each case the sample was stratified to achieve fixed numbers of interviews in each dedesignation area, with data being weighted to the known populations profile.
2. The LDDC completed its remit in Bermondsey Riverside on 30 October 1994. The indicative timetable for the dedesignation of the London Docklands Urban Development area is:

Beckton	1995	Wapping	1995
Limehouse	1996	Surrey Docks	1996
Isle of Dogs, Poplar and West Leamouth			1997
The Royal Docks	31 March 1998		