



News Release

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STUDY COMMISSIONED TO PLAN WAY AHEAD FOR DOCKLANDS SOCIAL SERVICES

A major study of social services in Tower Hamlets, Southwark and Newham has been commissioned by the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) in collaboration with the three local authorities, the statutory providers of such services.

The study, which will be carried out over a two year period by Price Waterhouse Management Consultants in partnership with the Boroughs, will review the current provision of social services in the Docklands area. It will also assess future requirements in light of significant population increases generated by redevelopment.

Elizabeth Filkin, LDDC Assistant Chief Executive, New City, said: "The Docklands residential and working population has already increased dramatically over the past ten years and we expect the population to continue to grow in the future as the forces of regeneration gather momentum. It is vital that social service provision within the UDA and the Docklands Boroughs in childcare, family support, services for the elderly and community care, is kept in step with the demands created by an expanding population. This study will help the local authorities responsible for delivering social services provision to plan ahead. We are delighted to be collaborating with the Docklands Boroughs in this work."

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Two Docklands' Social Services Groups comprising LDDC representatives and officers from council social services, environment and planning departments, have been set up to co-ordinate and monitor the progress of the study in Tower Hamlets and Newham. The consultants will work alongside these groups, and with officers in the London Borough of Southwark, to assess the current plans for future provision in the area, to draw up a list of additional services required and to prioritise requirements in the three Boroughs.

The consultants will also develop a strategy for sourcing funds to finance these new services including the possibility of contributions from private and voluntary social service sectors, as well as developers and other investors in London Docklands.

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Further information from:

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NOTE TO EDITORS

1. The resident population within the Urban Development Area (UDA) has increased by 56 per cent since 1981 to over 61,000 and by the turn of the century is expected to top 115,000. The number of people working in the UDA is currently over 53,000. By the year 2000, it is estimated that over 200,000 people will be working in London Docklands.