

News Release

071 512 3000

**London Docklands
Development Corporation**
Thames Quay
191 Marsh Wall
London E14 9TJ
Telex 894041 LDDC G
Fax No. 071 512 0777

27 January 1994

NEW STUDY SHOWS THAT KEY RIVER CROSSINGS ARE NEEDED TO MAINTAIN DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS IN DOCKLANDS

A new East London River Crossing is essential to ensure that the regeneration of London Docklands and the East Thames Corridor maintains its momentum.

This is the conclusion of a report commissioned by the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) which looked into the need for river crossings in East London in relationship to the development and regeneration potential of the area. The new study, Eastern River Crossings Assessment (ERICA), evaluated four schemes in detail and proposed a priority order for implementation.

Jointly at the top of the list are the DLR Lewisham Extension and a new East London River Crossing. Third is the Woolwich (Union) Metro, a new rail facility connecting the North London Line to the North Kent Line. Finally the report concludes that an additional crossing at Blackwall will be needed.

The Corporation maintains that a modified or revised ELRIC (East London River Crossing), taking into account environmental concerns and incorporating new public transport links, is essential in achieving successful long-term regeneration of both the Royal Docks and the East Thames Corridor.

Longer term objectives should include the development of the Woolwich Metro - a new rail crossing at Woolwich - and another crossing at Blackwall in order to attract additional investment and sustain the development process throughout the Urban Development Area.

ERICA concludes that the DLR Lewisham Line will complement the Jubilee Line Extension project and help further development in the Isle of Dogs. This scheme is in fact most likely to succeed and it is being developed by the LDDC and DLR with Government backing as a Public/Private Sector Joint Venture under the Private Finance Initiative.

But the regeneration of the Royal Docks, one of Europe's largest development sites, could be inhibited if a new crossing is not built between the Royal Docks and Thamesmead. This new bridge could well incorporate new public transport facilities.

"There has already been significant investment and commitment into developing a transport infrastructure for both Docklands and East London including the completion of the Docklands highways, the extension of the DLR to Beckton and now the go-ahead for the Jubilee Line," said Michael Pickard, Chairman of the LDDC.

"Any prioritising between the river crossing proposals must be done in a way that complements the existing transport network. We believe that we must build upon these commitments and consolidate them in a way that will produce maximum transport and economic benefits for the whole area."

The LDDC believes that all interested parties must work together to promote the preferred crossing schemes to ensure that not only the Urban Development Area under the control of the Corporation but the whole of East London can achieve *their full development and regeneration potential*.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

LDDC PRESS OFFICE:

071-512 0444 (office hours)

071-512 3000 (out of hours)