



30th June 1988

ACCORD AGREED BY TOWER HAMLETS AND CORPORATION

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) and the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) have today agreed the terms of an accord which secures significant benefits for local residents and clears the way for major road and rail projects needed to serve the redeveloped Docklands.

Under the terms of the agreement, which follows seven months of extensive negotiations, the Borough and the Corporation have agreed to co-operate fully, over the next four years, and in particular to implement the following initiatives:

1. A major programme of new housing and council house refurbishment which will improve the quality of accommodation for 650 Tower Hamlet's tenants. In particular more than 450 tenants - in St Vincents and Barley Mow estates, part of Birchfield and Will Crook estates and Dolphin and Burrell Houses - who currently live in sub-standard blocks of flats and who would be adversely affected by the Corporation's road proposals, are to be rehoused wherever possible in new accommodation. In many cases this will comprise new houses with gardens. A further 200 Council homes are also to be improved.
2. Action will be taken to stop "rat running" in Bow, Poplar and the Poplar High Street areas.

£35m.

3. A ~~£30M plus~~ package of new social, economic and community projects for the benefit of Tower Hamlets residents. This will include training schemes for local people, plans for improved community facilities, including £0.5M for a new centre in Limehouse, improvements to schools, health centres and libraries in the Isle of Dogs, Wapping and Limehouse, and support for business development initiatives.
4. Vital improvements in public transport. Specifically the two authorities have agreed to resolve outstanding Council concerns and press jointly for the rapid implementation of the Docklands Light Railway extension to Beckton and to explore urgently the scope for a DLR extension to Lewisham. Environmental improvements to the Light Railway and resolution of noise problems are also to be tackled. Both authorities will pursue a comprehensive public transport strategy with particular emphasis on bus provision in the Isle of Dogs and Wapping.
5. The Corporation's major roads programme. The Borough, as highway authority, will play a vital part in ensuring that the roads are approved and built on time; and will be responsible for traffic management on the full network. The Council will also work closely with the Department of Transport to speed up the improvements of the A13 junctions giving appropriate priority to the traffic using the Docklands roads. Measures will also be introduced to improve the environment along the A13. Both these measures, and those to stop "rat running" have been worked out jointly by the Council and the Department of Transport. The two will continue to work closely especially on the A13 and associated schemes.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr Brenda Collins, said: "This agreement represents a marvellous opportunity for local people to share in the enormous changes now taking place in our Borough and demonstrates the wisdom of persevering with negotiations over many months. We were particularly concerned for our tenants on estates affected by the proposed road line. They are already living in the midst of major construction works, and frequently in old and sub-standard flats. We have achieved a major coup in ensuring they are rehoused in new properties. The Corporation and the Department of the Environment (DOE), have responded magnificently to our demands."

LDDC Chairman, Sir Christopher Benson, welcomed the accord as confirmation of a growing partnership between the Borough and the Corporation which will bring real benefits to local residents. Commenting on the agreement he said: "This accord will assure developers and new businesses that they can continue to invest in Docklands with full confidence and so provide thousands of new jobs in the area. It will demonstrate to local people that we are committed to comprehensive regeneration of the area."

Sir Christopher also paid tribute to the support of the DOE and Canary Wharf developers, Olympia & York, in securing the agreement.

In welcoming this agreement LDDC Chief Executive, Michael Honey, said; "This accord is a breakthrough in the relationship between the LDDC and the Council. We look forward to working in active partnership, with the Borough, to achieve the goals we have set out. It is vital now to achieve results. As an immediate first step we shall be setting up a joint unit to advise and consult with tenants on rehousing proposals and to implement individual tenants' choices for replacement homes; and a joint committee of Councillors and LDDC Board Members will ensure that progress is maintained in all aspects of this partnership."

Cllr Jonathan Mathews, who led the Council's negotiating team over several months hailed the multi-million pound agreement as a victory for common sense and determination. He said: "Everybody gains as a result of this agreement. It demonstrates clearly that all the public authorities recognise that regeneration of Docklands is not just about office building, but is about people too. The housing package will give a better quality of life to hundreds now living in poor housing conditions - and that has to be good news."

Cllr Mathews drew attention to other measures complementary to the overall package now agreed. In particular he mentioned the development of the Tower Hamlets Training Centre at the Poplar Baths building and the close co-operation between the LDDC and Council in securing a Tertiary Education College for the Borough.

Both authorities will establish joint teams to implement the terms of the agreement, consult and advise tenants, identify sites and design the new housing provision.

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