

News Release



**London Docklands
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3 October 1997

COMMISSION FOR THE NEW TOWNS IN THE DRIVING SEAT

The Limehouse Link Tunnel, Aspen Way, Preston's Road flyover and East India Dock Tunnel will be handed on to the Commission for the New Towns (CNT) when the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) completes its remit on 31 March 1998.

Ministers have recently approved the handover of the LDDC's strategic roads in Tower Hamlets, to CNT as an interim measure. The long term future for the roads will be considered in parallel with the decision regarding proposals for the creation of a Greater London Authority. The roads and their associated structures will be transferred as a going concern. This will include the Docklands Control Centre at Orchard Place which controls, monitors and maintains the LDDC's strategic roads, particularly the operation of the technically complex Limehouse Link and East India Dock Link tunnels.

Discussions continue with the Tower Hamlets Council on the timetable for the handover of the LDDC's other roads in the Borough - including Marsh Wall, Millharbour and Limeharbour - in the context of current works to return Marsh Wall to its original alignment following the terrorist explosion in February 1996. Two way traffic is scheduled to be reinstated on Marsh Wall on Monday, 13 October 1997. However extensive repair works are required to services - gas, water and electricity - requiring the closure of the northern end of Millharbour until mid December.

The Corporation will hand over its other responsibilities on the Isle of Dogs and in Poplar, to the Borough, on 10 October 1997. Ownership of the West India and Millwall Docks will be transferred to British Waterways from that date.

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The Corporation's strategic highways in the London Borough of Newham - the Lower Lea Crossing, Connaught Crossing, Royal Albert Way and Royal Docks Road - will be transferred to the Newham Council at the end of March 1998.

For further information contact:

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Note to Editors

- 1. The Docklands strategic roads comprise the following roads which were built between 1986 and 1993: Royal Docks Road, Royal Albert Way, Connaught Crossing, Lower Lea Crossing, Aspen Way, East India Dock Link and Limehouse Link Tunnel.**
- 2. These roads are currently private streets operated by the LDDC as traffic authority and street managers, with Traffic Orders in the joint names of the Corporation and the relevant Boroughs.**
- 3. The Commission for the New Towns is to become the residuary body for all property rights and liabilities of the remaining English Urban Development Corporations, which are not being assigned to other successor organisations. The Commission for the New Towns acquires the statutory powers to receive such property rights and liabilities on 25 March 1998.**