

News Release



London Docklands
Development Corporation
Thames Quay
191 Marsh Wall London E14 9TJ
Telephone 071 512 3000
Fax 071 512 0222

26 October 1994

PRESS STATEMENT DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAILWAY

The Government's decision on the scope of the proposed Docklands Light Railway (DLR) Lewisham Extension has been welcomed by the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC), the railway's owners.

Environment Secretary of State, John Gummer, today announced that the extension will proceed with six stations, including a new underground station at Island Gardens. DLR will now be asking companies and consortia to register their interest, by 14 December 1994, in a concession to design, build, finance and operate the 4.2 km extension. A seventh station at Cutty Sark will depend on the current estimated capital cost of £14 million being firmly committed by third parties by the end of the period, before the formal invitation to tender is issued to prequalified bidders in February 1995.

LDDC Chairman, Michael Pickard, said: "We are delighted that DLR can now formally go to the market with the Lewisham project. We have always supported a station at Cutty Sark, provided that it is financially viable and we are supporting the search for further funding on top of that already pledged by organisations and companies in Greenwich."

The Government also announced today that the first steps towards privatisation of the DLR will be taken in 1996, when the railway will be franchised to the private sector for about seven years. The railway will be sold to the private sector at the end of the operating franchise.

More/.....

-2-

Michael Pickard added: "Privatisation of the DLR is intended to bring further increases in efficiency to the railway and a better service for its customers. Since the DLR was transferred to LDDC in April 1992, the railway has achieved 98% reliability and is already offering a much improved service to its passengers. Late evening services between Bank, Tower Gateway, Island Gardens and Stratford resumed on 3 October. Further service improvements on the whole railway, including weekend operating and through running between Bank and Beckton, will be introduced by Summer 1995. Increased commercialisation of the DLR should reduce dependence on public subsidy, without a loss of service to passengers."

- ENDS -

For further information contact:

**LDDC Press Office
Thames Quay
191 Marsh Wall
London E14 9TJ**

**Tel: 071 512 0444 (office hours)
Tel: 071 512 3000 (after hours)
Fax: 071 512 0222**

Note to Editors

The London Docklands Development Corporation is scheduled to complete its remit on 31 March 1998.