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MAJORITY OF NEWHAM RESIDENTS FAVOUR STOLPORT

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No less than 53 per cent of Newham residents support the concept of a STOLport in the Royal Docks, according to an opinion poll conducted by MORI on behalf of the London Docklands Development Corporation and the Borough of Newham. The results of the survey, published today, show that 22 per cent oppose the plan and the remaining 25 per cent are undecided.

In early September, MORI interviewed a representative sample of Newham residents living in reasonable proximity to the proposed airport and doubled the number of interviews in the area immediately adjacent to the Royals.

Overall, those residents who live nearest to the proposed site and those who are more knowledgeable about the STOLport plan are most in favour of an airport. Local awareness of the scheme is high - 89 per cent have heard about the plan though only 51 per cent know where exactly it is planned to site the runway.

Earlier this year, the LDDC commissioned from the Economic and Transport Planning Group a feasibility study on the whole range of aviation services that might be operated from locations in docklands. On the basis of that survey, and following the demonstration at West India Dock last June of the capabilities of short take off and landing aircraft by Brymon Airways and Mowlem, the joint promoters of the scheme, the Corporation moved to the public consultation phase. The opinion poll was the logical follow up and the MORI findings are now being considered by the Newham Borough Council.

MORE

Reg Ward, the Chief Executive of the LDDC, said today: "I am greatly encouraged by the results of this poll, as they show that those residents who know most about STOLport support the scheme. The research has pinpointed the views and worries of the communities. We can now look at, and clarify, the specific areas of concern - in particular, job creation for local people".

When questioned by MORI about the possible effects on the area of building such an airport in Newham, 66 per cent of residents thought that the development would increase the number of jobs locally. The poll showed that the main concern of people in the Borough is jobs - 90 per cent of respondents thought jobs to be the vital issue, while pollution, noise and traffic congestion were thought to be less important.

The poll does not alter the fact that the Corporation is the planning authority for the area and it retains its neutral position on STOLport. It believes that the project is worthy of consideration and has encouraged the developers to pursue it. The LDDC stressed to the developers the need for public consultation - the MORI poll has helped to establish that the consultation process has been effective.

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A copy of the research study by MORI is attached. For further
information, contact: LDDC Press Office

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