



**London Docklands  
Development Corporation**  
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Wednesday, May 18 1983

A TEN YEAR TASK FOR A REGENERATED DOCKLANDS

The regeneration of London's Docklands should be completed within 10 years. By that time the population should have doubled to about 110,000, thousands more jobs will be created, and the prosperity of the area, including income from the rates, will be much higher according to Nigel Broackes, Chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation, in a major speech to the Royal Society of Arts tonight (May 18).

Mr Broackes told RSA members: "It is our job to create the necessary infrastructure - roads, rail and services. In turn we expect the commitment of private resources to build for the future on that base which we are providing."

He added: "We are promoting direct investment by the private sector as opposed to the development of commercial buildings by public money. That is where we differ from other New Towns or Development corporations. Our way is a better guarantee for the future."

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Chairman Nigel Broackes  
Vice Chairman Bob Mellish MP  
Chief Executive Reginald Ward

It would have been easy for the Corporation to begin development on its western edge, adjoining the City of London, then work eastward, using public money for municipal housing, or advance factories, for which it would then seek to attract occupants.

Mr Broackes said: "By the time we were set up, less than two years ago, there were no Government resources to spare for projects on this scale.

"The London boroughs had large surpluses of empty housing and unused land. So we decided on a simultaneous start throughout the area to generate interest and induce activity everywhere.

"It may sound simplistic, but I had the idea of promoting something significant at no more than 1000-yard intervals throughout the eight square miles of the area."

Mr Broackes said that more than six hundred houses were started before April 1981. Another 900 were begun the year just ended and nearly 3000 are scheduled for 1983. The total of 10,000 new homes planned on LDDC land in a price range local people can afford will almost double the existing Docklands population.

The proposal to build a short take-off and landing airport in the Royal Docks (STOLport) will, it is hoped, bring forward the commercial and employment prospects of the area by more than a decade. A public enquiry into the proposals on the STOLport scheme is scheduled to start next month.

Provisional approval has been received from the Government for a £77 million light railway project, linking Docklands with the London Transport network.

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Other confidence-building projects include two Asda superstores at Beckton and on the Isle of Dogs; News International's new print and production facilities at Wapping; new headquarters for Northern and Shell, the international publishing group, on the Isle of Dogs; new industrial units in the Enterprise Zone which will be ready for occupation in the next two months; and the start of video and film production by Limehouse Productions who have taken a former warehouse.

Mr Broackes emphasised the Corporation's concern for existing Docklands communities. "It is the LDDC's overriding desire to produce local work for local people on a much larger scale than has existed for many years", he said.

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