

News Release

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REG WARD DECIDES TO STEP DOWN IN JANUARY 1988

The publication of the London Docklands Development Corporation's (LDDC) 6th Annual Report and Accounts coincides with the announcement by Reg Ward that he will be leaving the Corporation on the 1st January 1988, after seven years as Chief Executive, to pursue other urban development interests.

In his statement Reg Ward says "I first indicated some two years ago that I would intend to move on to do other things when the future of Docklands had been secured. With more than £5 billion of private investment now committed, we can clearly see an "Emerging City" - a far cry from the dereliction and despair which existed in 1980. The future holds unparalleled opportunities for local residents and East London as a whole. My seven years at the head of such an exceptionally capable, committed and successful team has been a totally exciting and fulfilling experience."

"In the Annual Review I have suggested that 1987 is both the 'Year of Arrival' for Docklands and its point of departure towards even higher aspirations. So is it for me also; it is the time to take up the opportunities available to me for involvement in urban redevelopment elsewhere in the UK and overseas, drawing on the unique 'Docklands Experience'.

"1987 has been a dramatic year with the opening of the Docklands Light Railway, and the signing of Canary Wharf which represents a pinnacle in Docklands regeneration and my own career. Following the opening of London City Airport on 5th November, I plan to take a long overdue holiday with my wife. We will be visiting significant urban developments worldwide! I can then look forward to an equally exacting life, taking up the exciting challenges offered to me.

Christopher Benson, Chairman of the LDDC, commenting on Mr Ward's intended departure said " Reg Ward was the inspiration for much that has happened in Docklands. His imagination and energy would be hard to match and it is particularly fitting that his decision to leave the Corporation is announced shortly following the signing of the Canary Wharf agreement - a project with which Mr Ward identified from its conception. The Docklands Light Railway, which recently opened and the STOL Airport, which will begin operations in October, were also conceived by Reg Ward. He leaves with the gratitude and good wishes of his colleagues and friends throughout Docklands."

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