

News Release

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8 February 1991

LDDC ANNOUNCES NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

David Hardy, Chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC), today announced the appointment of a new Chief Executive for the Corporation. He is Eric Sorensen, 48, who has a strong record of achievement at the Department of the Environment, with wide experience of all the issues of urban regeneration, including finance, infrastructure, private sector investment, inner city development, housing and publicity.

David Hardy commented: "Eric Sorensen has been selected from a very strong field of applicants, from both the private and public sector, and he has the calibre of leadership we need to take the Corporation forward. We are delighted that he has accepted the post of Chief Executive for the LDDC.

"Eric will concentrate on putting London Docklands' 3 billion transport infrastructure in place, attracting private sector development in the Royal Docks, continuing to build on our increasingly good relationships with the three local Boroughs by delivering real benefits for local people and building renewed confidence in London Docklands.

"His excellent record on public/private sector partnerships, particularly in urban regeneration activities, makes him ideally suited to the needs of the LDDC. We look forward to welcoming him on board at the end of February."

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EDITOR'S NOTES

1. The London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) is an Urban Development Corporation set up by the Government in 1981. This year it celebrates its 10th anniversary. The Corporation's goal is to secure the lasting physical, economic and social regeneration of the urban development area - 8.5 sq miles of East London stretching from London Bridge to the Royal Docks at Beckton. The UDA incorporates areas of the Boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Newham and Southwark.
2. Since 1981, over 8 billion of private investment has been injected into London Docklands against £800 million from the public sector. A ratio of 10:1.
3. Over 3 billion is being invested in London Docklands' new transport system including major road, rail and tube links, connecting the City and West End and all main communication routes.
4. An estimated 220,000 people will be working in London Docklands by the year 2000 and the projected resident population will be 115,000.

ERIC SORENSEN

In a prestigious career within the Department of the Environment since 1967, Eric Sorensen, 48, has had senior experience of all aspects of urban regeneration issues and has had direct experience of work with Urban Development Corporations (UDCs).

Following various DoE posts covering local government, finance and housing, he became Private Secretary to Peter Shore (then Secretary of State for the Environment) in 1977. From 1980 - 1981 he was Regional Director at the Departments of Environment and Transport Manchester office responsible for planning, trunk roads, housing and inner city development. Between 1981 - 1984 he was Head of Merseyside Task Force developing many local regeneration projects.

From 1984 - 1987 as Head of the Inner Cities Directorate, he was responsible for the DoE's urban policy, including incentives for private sector participation and development in inner city projects.

In 1987, he was appointed Head of the Urban Policy Unit to the Cabinet Office, where he co-ordinated policy and publicity for the Government's Inner Cities programme. A year later he became DoE Director of Personnel for recruitment, training and career development for the Department's 6000 staff. In May 1990 he was appointed Deputy Secretary of the Housing and Construction Command.

Eric Sorensen was educated at Bedford School and Keele University (BA Hons in Economics and History). Before joining the DoE he carried out voluntary work in India and worked and travelled in the USA. He is married with two sons and a daughter and lives in London.

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Further information: LDDC Press Office (071-512 3000/0444)