**The London Docklands**

London by 1981 was a useless area, with very few jobs, closed docks, poor transport and housing and a lack of services. The London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) was set up to improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area. Here I have grouped the different changes into these three separate categories.

**Environmental Changes**

728 hectares of derelict land was reclaimed and 160 000 trees were replanted. 130 hectares were made open space areas, as in fields and parks. There were also 17 conservation areas created.

**Economic Changes**

Transport was improved to make London more accessible. The Docklands Light Railway is a track of 29km and carries 320 000 passengers a week. This railway has connected to many other forms of tube lines such as the Jubilee and Waterloo lines. The city airport was used by half a million passengers in 1995. A link has also been made with the M11 as well as 135 km of new roads leading to Docklands.

Employment and the number of businesses are said to have both doubled from 1981 to 1996. This means more money is being brought into the area, making London wealthier. Businesses are now competing for offices in the area.

**Social Changes**

More than 19 800 new houses have been built, mainly luxury flats, and 7 900 existing homes have been refurbished. This provides a better quality life style for residents. Shopping centres have been redeveloped, providing people with more variety and theoretically better quality in goods. Nearly £100 million has been spent on health, education, training and community programmes to look after the population.

**People’s Thoughts**

There are people who are happy with the development of the London Docks, however there are others who disagree with the whole plan. Local residents can’t afford any of the modern flats and due to the shortage of low-cost housing; they aren’t given much of a choice. Former Dockers are also unable to apply for most of the new jobs available, as they require certain skills or qualifications which they have never had a chance to have. The old residents feel as if the community has been split up by the new residents. Here is a photo of Canary Wholf, showing the development of London.