

DLR breathes life into North Woolwich

The DLR is a key factor in making life better for North Woolwich residents, according to a new report looking at the impact of the London City Airport extension.

Almost 90 per cent of the residents believe the DLR has improved access to jobs, shopping and central London, as well as attracting new people to the area, states 'North Woolwich Research: Changes 2006-2008'.

An earlier report in 2006, by Social Research Associates, found that residents had little

confidence in their community and low expectations of getting better jobs or education.

Two years on and the results are more optimistic, with 74 per cent of people surveyed saying things had improved for them personally, and some mentioning that the DLR was a strong factor in their decision to move to the area.

Director of the DLR, Jonathan Fox, said: 'We promised local people that the DLR would deliver benefits directly to them and they are now seeing those improvements in action.'

Fast fact

The DLR carries 67 million passengers every year, but this will rise to 80 million by 2009. Around £300m is being spent on the current three-car upgrade programme, which will increase the DLR's capacity and deliver an even more reliable service.

'We expect the effects of regeneration to become even more pronounced when the Woolwich Arsenal extension is completed next year.'

Blackfriars closure

Blackfriars Underground station will close for redevelopment from 2 March 2009 until late 2011, as part of Network Rail's Thameslink upgrade programme.

Although District and Circle line trains will continue to run through the station during the works, they will not stop. Passengers are being advised to bear this in mind if they are buying or renewing a season ticket.

Further details about all the closure arrangements will be announced nearer the time.

TfL appoints Serco to operate Woolwich Ferry

Serco Ltd has now taken over operation of the Woolwich Ferry service.

The contract, running until 31 March 2010 and worth £10.7m, was signed last month. Serco takes over operation of the service from the London Borough of Greenwich.

The free ferry carries road vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists between Woolwich and North Woolwich, and links the North and South Circular roads across the River Thames. It also provides an important link to the DLR.



TfL's London River Services will continue to own and finance the service, while Serco will be responsible for maintaining and operating the boats and infrastructure.

For more information

Further details are available from: Group Government & Stakeholder Relations, Transport for London, Windsor House, 42-50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0TL. Telephone: 020 7126 4126 or email: gsr@tfl.gov.uk

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Tackling the touts



The proportion of women using illegal cabs is at an all-time low, but some are still putting themselves at risk.

This warning came from the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, the Metropolitan Police (Met) and Transport for London (TfL) as the latest phase of the award-winning Safer Travel at Night campaign was recently launched.

The scheme aims to raise awareness of the dangers of using illegal cabs. It has had great success over the last six years with Met figures showing that cab-related sexual offences are down 44 per cent since 2002.

Additionally, independent research reveals the proportion of women using illegal cabs to

get home late at night has fallen from 19 per cent in 2003 to three per cent in 2008.

Despite these cuts, 104 cab-related sexual attacks were committed in 2007.

Recent research also shows that around half of late night

travellers incorrectly believe that minicabs can pick up passengers that approach them in the street.

Posters, radio advertising and TV ads will complement police work targeting 'touting hotspots' in the run up to Christmas.

How to find a safe ride home

- Cabwise: Text HOME to 60835 to receive two numbers for local licensed minicab firms and a black cab company
- Findaride: Visit tfl.gov.uk/findaride for London-wide licensed minicab operators and booking
- TfL's 24-hour travel information: Call 020 7222 1234 for details of taxi and private hire services in the Capital
- Traveltools: Visit tfl.gov.uk/traveltools for information on Findaride, Cabwise, Journey Planner and London travel information

Inside • Latest fares package announced • New trains unveiled • Better Dial-a-Ride buses •



Mayor – a fairer fares package for all

Older passengers, people on income support and anyone travelling off-peak will benefit from the 2009 fares package being introduced on 1 January.

From then, older people will be able to use their Freedom Passes 24-hours-a-day, every day and there will be a new half-price travel scheme for those on income support. Many Londoners and visitors will also benefit from a new reduced off-peak fare on the Tube, from 09:30 to 16:00, Monday to Friday.

In some cases, a journey from Zone 6 to central London will be £1.60 cheaper. Oyster card users travelling from Zones 1 to 6 off-peak could find the cost of their journey falls from £3.80 to £2.20.

Mayor Boris Johnson, said 'tough choices' had been necessary to tackle the consequences of an unsustainable fares policy by former Mayor, Ken Livingstone. Fares policies in his last year of office are estimated to have removed more than £80m from the funds available to TfL this year alone.

An overall fare increase of inflation, plus one per cent, is needed across London's transport network to plug this gap and help sustain the massive investment necessary to increase capacity and reliability.

The Mayor said: 'This fares package is designed to be fair to all Londoners, commuters and visitors.'

'Some of us will pay a little more but I have ensured fares will remain affordable, especially for people who rely on public transport most, including the elderly, disabled veterans and those on lower incomes.'



Fares at a glance

Tube, DLR and Overground

- The £4 adult Zone 1 cash fare is frozen, while the £3 fare for journeys outside Zone 1 rises to £3.20
- The minimum adult cash fare of £1.50 on the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) and Overground rises to £1.60
- The one day price cap will continue to offer a 50p saving on the cost of a one day Travelcard
- A new off-peak period on the Tube between 09:30 and 16:00 has been introduced, with fares reduced by more than 35 per cent on the existing peak price

Buses

- The single bus fare, using Oyster pay as you go, increases from 90p to £1, returning to 2007 levels. The bus and tram cash single fare remains at £2
- The one day bus and tram pay as you go cap rises from £3 to £3.30. The additional charge for the printed one day Bus Pass remains at 50p
- A weekly Bus and Tram Pass rises from £13 to £13.80. Other Bus Pass season tickets rise in proportion to the weekly pass

TfL rated highest for equality

TfL has become the first transport authority in the UK to achieve a five star equality rating.

It was awarded a Level 5 Local Government Equality Standard by the Improvement and Development Agency. The award recognises TfL's equality work, including promoting diversity in the workplace, improving accessibility on London's

transport system and encouraging inclusive business practices.

TfL Commissioner Peter Hendy said: 'Our work does not end here and we will seek further improvements as we improve the accessibility of London's transport, make TfL a better place to work for all and ensure that our suppliers carry these practices forward.'

Better buses for Dial-a-Ride

Mayor Boris Johnson has announced that 61 new, custom-built Dial-a-Ride minibuses will be introduced across London this year.

The £3.9m TfL has invested in the vehicles is part of a long-term programme to improve door-to-door services in the Capital. It will improve transport services for older or disabled Londoners who cannot easily use public transport.

TfL has already begun replacing the ageing fleet, but these are the first vehicles to be purpose-built. Dial-a-Ride passengers and drivers have been closely involved in developing the new buses to ensure they meet passengers' diverse needs.

The design features a totally flat, low floor plus dual access at the side and rear. Tip-up seats will allow wheelchair users to manoeuvre around the vehicle more easily. The new bus also offers a much improved interior with better lighting, tinted windows, air conditioning and onboard CCTV for added safety and security.



Cool addition to the Tube network now unveiled



New air-conditioned trains that will operate on the Metropolitan line from 2010 and the Circle, District and Hammersmith & City lines from 2011 have now been unveiled.

The 'S-Stock' trains, which will serve around 40 per cent of the Tube network on the sub-surface lines, will have air conditioning, walk-through carriages with CCTV coverage in each one, plus improved accessibility. They are being delivered as part of TfL's Investment Programme.

TfL Commissioner Peter Hendy said: 'The new air-conditioned

Fast fact

The Metropolitan, Circle, District and Hammersmith & City lines are known as sub-surface lines because underground sections run just below street level.

trains are part of vital upgrade works which will transform the oldest and complex lines on the Tube network - the Circle, District, Hammersmith & City and the Metropolitan lines. When works are completed, passengers will see faster, more reliable journeys and more trains per hour.'

Bounds Green gets go-ahead

A scheme to improve a vital section of the A406 has been given the go-ahead by the Secretary of State for Transport, following a public inquiry.

The A406 Bounds Green Safety and Environmental Improvement Scheme will widen the road to create a predominantly two-lane dual carriageway. It will also include junction improvements to ease traffic flow, better pedestrian crossings and cycling facilities.

Improvements on this stretch of the North Circular Road are long overdue. The proposed scheme is expected to reduce road collisions

by up to one third and will cut the level of rat-running traffic on residential roads.

Mayor Boris Johnson, said: 'Residents of this part of London have been living in limbo for years while the scheme has been pored over, so it really is good news that Transport for London and the borough councils can now get on with the much-needed improvements that promise to have a positive impact for the whole community.'

Work on the scheme is scheduled to start in 2009 and be completed by 2011.