

NEWS RELEASE SLB – PR00706– 27th March 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

South London Business welcomes Crossrail amendment.

South London Business welcomes the announcement by The Secretary of State for Transport in the House of Commons on 22nd March confirming an amendment to the Crossrail Bill. Douglas Alexander MP confirmed that following agreement between Greenwich Council and Berkeley Homes, the Crossrail Bill would be amended to provide powers for the construction of a Crossrail station in Woolwich. Responding to the Secretary of State's announcement, Peter Pledger, South London Business Chief Executive said "We are extremely pleased that a pragmatic commercial solution has been found to provide a station in Woolwich. Constructing the Crossrail link without a station south of the Thames would have been damaging to South London and disadvantaged thousands of businesses and Londoners. We congratulate Berkeley Homes and Greenwich Council on forging a deal that allows for the development of the station without additional strain on the public purse".

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(149 words)

Notes to Editors:

For further information, or to arrange an interview with Peter Pledger, please contact: Ross Feeney, Policy & Communications Manager - 020 8256 1281 or 07900 914 129

South London Business (SLB) is a business organisation that exists to represent and promote the South London economy. SLB provides strategic political support to companies by bridging the gap between the public and private sectors. South London Business:

- Can facilitate access to senior public figures and policy makers, including key figures within the 'Mayoral Family' and local and regional politicians.
- Co-ordinates an employer-led Skills Alliance for South London; working to influence the skills agenda to ensure school-leavers and graduates have the skills required by business.
- Supports and promotes sub-regional initiatives in the innovation and tourism sectors, and promotes business-led regeneration through two 'City Growth' projects.
- Lobbies on strategic issues such as:
 - Transport network improvements
 - Safeguarding commercial land from residential redevelopment, and
 - Solutions to issues such as planning, skills and 'crime and grime'.
- Provides access to markets, new contacts and new business opportunities

South London Business also supports smaller companies through 'Work Smarter' – which seeks to encourage greater investment in staff training and development.