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GREEN SHOOTS FOR JUBILEE GARDENS AS £1.5m FUNDING FROM MAYOR ANNOUNCED

Plans for transforming Jubilee Gardens in South Bank into a world-class park have been given a boost with the Mayor's announcement of £1.5m of Transport for London funding to Lambeth Council for Jubilee Gardens. Together with the monies already committed through local landowners' section 106 agreements, this means around three quarters of the funding required for the £5.5m scheme is now in place. The Jubilee Gardens Steering Group now aims to complete the new park in time for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and London 2012.

Local landowners and businesses, community groups and the statutory authorities have been working together for a number of years with the aim of transforming the flat, featureless patch of grass into a garden worthy of its location next to the London Eye and opposite the Houses of Parliament. Landscape architects West 8 were appointed following an international design competition and in-depth community consultation. An earlier proposal was originally granted planning permission in May 2006. The Steering Group is now launching a variation of the scheme to create a lush and green park, flower beds of the highest quality, and many new trees. The revised plans will be submitted for planning approval in summer 2010.

Ted Inman, Chief Executive of South Bank Employers' Group, commented: "On behalf of the Jubilee Gardens Steering Group, I wish to thank the Mayor and Transport for London for the funding which recognizes the need for the Jubilee Gardens to be made worthy of its prime location and become a new green landmark for the capital. It will be intensively used by local residents and employees and by millions of visitors. We are determined to deliver this exciting project in time for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and London 2012."

Alan Bishop, Chief Executive of Southbank Centre, said: “We are delighted in the Mayor’s vote of confidence. This will be a world-class park and a focal point for 2012. Just as important is the partnership between the landowners and the local community that will maintain the park to the high standard befitting the cultural centre of London”.

For more information

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Notes to Editors

- **For background information:** www.jubileegardens.org.uk
- **The Jubilee Gardens Steering Group** brings together landowners and businesses, community groups and statutory authorities, who have agreed to work together to secure major improvements to Jubilee Gardens and have established a Trust to undertake the management and maintenance of the Gardens in the future. Members of the Group are:

Merlin Entertainments London Eye
Coin Street Community Builders
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Friends of Jubilee Gardens
Greater London Authority
London Borough of Lambeth
Shell
Shirayama
Southbank Centre
South Bank Employers’ Group
Waterloo Community Development Group

- **About West 8**

West 8 is a cutting-edge practice which delivers ground-breaking urban parks and public spaces. Set up in 1987 as an international team of architects, urban designers and industrial designers, West 8 designs landscape interventions, urban plans, squares, parks and gardens worldwide.
www.west8.nl

- **About South Bank Employers’ Group**

South Bank Employers’ Group is an association of the major organisations in South Bank, Waterloo and Blackfriars with a long term commitment to improving the experience of the area for employees, visitors and residents.