

KENT THAMESIDE *fastrack* BUSWAY

PHASE 1- MAJOR SCHEME

What is *Fastrack*?

Fastrack is the working name for a new bus-based public transport network for Kent Thameside. It is planned to have core express routes, feeder routes and rural links connecting most of the major existing and new developments in the Dartford and Gravesham areas. It aims to provide fast, reliable, frequent and accessible public transport.

Why is *Fastrack* needed?

Dartford and Gravesham form an area called Kent Thameside. This area has huge development potential, which plans to bring approximately 50,000 new jobs and around 30,000 new homes over the next 20 to 25 years. Much of the development will be on 'brownfield sites', the sort of land that has already seen the building of Bluewater, Crossways, Waterstone Park and Ingress Park. Development of Dartford Park, Eastern Quarry, Ebbsfleet and the Swanscombe Peninsula is planned to follow.

However, this amount of development will not be sustainable if everyone uses a car for local journeys, which is why a high quality public transport network is essential to help prevent future congestion. It is important that *Fastrack* links the developments with existing public transport hubs, town centres and other facilities such as retail, leisure and education so that future generations will have a viable alternative mode of travel.

Fastrack will therefore form an integral part of an exciting new future for the area.

Who is paying for *Fastrack*?

Private developers will pay for much of the proposed network as part of their planned developments, for example the ProLogis development at Dartford Park will see a *Fastrack* service from Home Gardens to Bluewater via Dartford Park, Crossways and Greenhithe Railway Station.

Public funding is necessary for the areas of *Fastrack* outside of proposed developments such as the Phase 1 Major Scheme, which runs from Home Gardens to Greenhithe Railway Station via the GlaxoSmithKline sports fields (adjacent to Darent Road), Leigh City Technology College, Darent Valley Hospital and Bluewater. This important strategic link will help encourage future sustainable developments and therefore control future congestion on the existing road network.

Further Information

If you require any further information regarding the current construction of the Phase 1 Major Scheme, please contact the following public liaison number where a member of the *Fastrack* site team will be happy to help:

Tel: 01322 319058

Staff from the following organisations form the *Fastrack* team and are all working together in partnership:

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Notable Dates in the *Fastrack* Phase 1 Major Scheme Programme

Public Exhibitions (unmanned) held at Dartford Borough Council Offices, Leigh City Technology College, Darent Valley Hospital and Bluewater (May/June 2001)



Planning Application including an Environmental Statement made to Kent County Council on 15 October 2001



Public Exhibition (manned) held at the Leigh City Technology College on 2nd and 3rd November 2001



Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) and Side Roads Orders (SRO) published on 21 June 2002



Planning Consent granted 20 December 2002



Public Inquiry (CPO and SRO) January 2003



Secretary of State confirms scheme orders (CPO and SRO) December 2003



Scheme competitively tendered to 6 major civil engineering contractors (Spring / Summer 2004)



Contract to build Phase 1 Major Scheme awarded to Fitzpatrick Contractors Ltd (Aug 2004)



Construction Start September 2004



Construction Due for Completion Spring 2006

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