Public consultation period:
Monday 2 February to Friday 27 March 2015
kent.gov.uk/thanetparkway

An ‘easy-read’ version of this document is also available from our website or upon request. For any other formats or languages please email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk
Growth Without Gridlock, our 20 year transport delivery plan, outlines our aspiration to introduce a new Parkway station in Thanet to enable economic growth and regeneration across East Kent.

Thanet Parkway railway station complements the line speed improvement scheme, bringing Thanet to within about an hour’s journey time of Stratford International and thereby improving the perception of East Kent as a place for investment, particularly at Discovery Park Enterprise Zone, the Manston Airport site and other development sites proposed in the draft Thanet Local Plan.

The improved rail connectivity to London, Canterbury and the wider Kent area will also enable local residents to access employment opportunities elsewhere.

I believe this scheme offers a real opportunity for local people and businesses and would like to know what you think. I therefore welcome your participation in the Thanet Parkway public consultation and invite you to share your views with us.

David Brazier
Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Kent County Council
Welcome

Thanks for picking up this booklet about the proposed Thanet Parkway railway station.

We have developed this booklet to help explain what we are proposing and how you can provide your feedback. We have structured the booklet into six key chapters.
Kent County Council is promoting the building of a new parkway station in Thanet on the existing rail line between Minster and Ramsgate. A ‘parkway’ station is a railway station that primarily serves as a park and ride interchange.

Thanet Parkway railway station would be located to the west of the village of Cliffsend and south of the Manston Airport site, off the newly built East Kent Access Road near the A256/A299 Sevenscore roundabout.

What is the purpose of this consultation?

Our proposal is still at an early stage and so we want to give you the opportunity to:

• understand why we are proposing a new parkway station

• consider the layout and facilities, and possible impacts and benefits of the proposed station and
• ask us questions and provide your views.

What is the consultation timeline?

This consultation will run for eight weeks from Monday 2 February to 27 March 2015 (inclusive). The deadline for all responses is Friday 27 March 2015.
What else should you know?

• Our proposed Thanet Parkway railway station is independent and at a different location from the one proposed at Manston Green development promoted by Cogent Land LLP. The Manston Green development planning application no longer includes a parkway station.

• The Thanet Parkway railway station consultation is also separate to Thanet District Council’s public consultation on its Draft Thanet Local Plan to 2031 Preferred Options Document (9 January - 6 March 2015).

How can you get involved?

Your opinion and comments matter and will help us shape the proposal for this new parkway station.

There are a number of ways you can get involved:

• visit the Thanet Parkway railway station website at: kent.gov.uk/thanetparkway
• attend the consultation events organised across Thanet and Dover
• share your views by completing the consultation questionnaire.
Chapter 2: Why do we need a new parkway station?

East Kent has lots of exciting development opportunities but long commuting times to London and poor connections to the rest of Kent have meant that it hasn’t been the first choice for new business investment.

Improving connectivity is a vital step in unlocking development potential and attracting the necessary investment and job opportunities for local people.

A parkway station will provide greater opportunity to access London via High Speed 1 (HS1) and improve access to employment in Canterbury, Ashford and the rest of Kent.

By building the proposed parkway station it would mean the Manston Airport site, Manston Business Park, EuroKent Business Park, Discovery Park Enterprise Zone and developments around Westwood Cross will benefit being about an hour from London (Stratford International).

The map overleaf shows the future growth potential of key development sites that the parkway station would support.

- Journey time of about an hour to London
- Improved perception of East Kent for inward investment
- Improved accessibility to job markets in London and wider Kent area
Key development sites near the proposed Thanet Parkway railway station

Thanet Parkway will serve residential areas stretching from North Kent coastal areas to Dover

EuroKent Development:
- Up to 63,000 sqm floor space
- Up to 550 housing units
- Potential for 4,000 jobs across Manston Business Park and EuroKent Development sites

Manston Business Park
- Up to 69,000 sqm floor space

Westwood Cross:
- 53 retail units
- Potential expansion of land and housing around Westwood Cross

Manston Airport Site:
- Proposal for a major mixed use development predominantly commercial use
- Aims to achieve more than 4,000 new jobs

Discovery Park Enterprise Zone:
- Currently over 100 businesses (2,000 jobs) on site
- Aim to deliver 3,000 jobs by 2017
- Significant new development approved and scheduled to commence 2015 onwards

Note: information about development sites provided by developers
Our vision for improving rail accessibility for East Kent

Bringing Thanet within an hour’s journey time of London, (Stratford International), improving perceptions of East Kent for inward investment and increasing employment opportunities through improved accessibility to wider job markets.

**Line speed and operational improvements**
A Kent County Council and Network Rail project to improve the journey time by about 10 minutes between Ashford and Ramsgate by 2018/19.

**Thanet Parkway station**
A new railway station in Thanet by 2018/19, the focus of this consultation.

**East Kent re-signalling**
A Network Rail project to replace signalling and improve the network between Ashford and Ramsgate, which is planned to start by 2020.
Stakeholder engagement

We are working closely with the Department for Transport, Network Rail, Southeastern and Thanet District Council to ensure the project is viable and supported.

We are also talking to Dover District Council, the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and businesses at Discovery Park Enterprise Zone.

We have been in touch with Parish and Town Councils in Thanet and Dover about the new station, including:

- St. Nicholas at Wade with Sarre Parish Council
- Birchington Parish Council
- Minster Parish Council
- Manston Parish Council
- Broadstairs and St. Peters Parish Council
- Deal Town Council
- Cliffsend Parish Council
- Sandwich Town Council
- Ramsgate Town Council
- Walmer Town Council
- Monkton Parish Council
- Ash Parish Council.
How will the proposed station be funded?

• Based on the initial concept design work, the estimated cost of delivering the parkway station is about £14 million.
• £10 million funding has been provisionally secured from central Government and we’ve committed £1.5 million Kent County Council funding.
• We are currently exploring the £2.5 million funding gap with other parties.

What options have we considered?

We identified six options to provide better connectivity between sites planned for development in East Kent (see page seven) with London and wider Kent area.

The options included:

1. Deliver a new parkway station
2. Increase car parking provision at Ramsgate Railway Station
3. Increase car parking provision at Minster Railway Station
4. Provide shuttle bus service from Birchington-on-Sea Railway Station
5. Provide direct coach service between London and Manston Airport site / Discovery Park
6. Provide shuttle bus service from Ramsgate Railway Station to development sites.

After analysis of each of the options we shortlisted options one and two. While the other options would be less expensive, they wouldn’t deliver the overall objectives of supporting growth of the East Kent economy and increasing employment opportunities. Further information on the assessment of these options can be found in “Alternative Options Analysis Report” available at: kent.gov.uk/thanetparkway
Option 2 - Increase car parking provision at Ramsgate station

Ramsgate station currently has 44 parking spaces. A large number of rail users park on surrounding residential streets due to lack of spaces at the station car park. Our work suggests that there is a need to provide a minimum of 223 spaces at Ramsgate station by 2031 to support the growth in rail demand. The residential streets around Ramsgate station do not have the capacity to accommodate this predicted additional car parking demand.

We identified and investigated the following four options to increase car provision at Ramsgate station:

• Decking the existing station car park
• Building a multi storey car park at the Network Rail Maintenance Depot
• Building a car park at Warre Recreation Ground
• Acquiring industrial land on Prince’s Road to construct a car park

All options have major issues affecting delivery and were therefore discounted. Our preferred option is to deliver a new parkway station in Thanet.

Ramsgate station car park
Chapter 3: Our Preferred Option - What are we proposing?

The proposed parkway station will be an unstaffed, two platform station, serviced by Mainline and High Speed services. We would build a car park and a new access road to connect the station and car park with the newly built A256/A299 Sevenscore roundabout.

We will integrate the station with other modes of transport such as local buses, taxi, walking and cycling.

The station and car park would be delivered by early 2019 and be accessible to all.

Our plans are at an early stage so the exact location, layout and appearance of the station, car park and access arrangements may change. The details in this chapter reflect the early stage design completed in 2010/11.

Further details can be found in “station concept layout design report” available at: kent.gov.uk/thanetparkway
Possible parkway station location
Possible station facilities

- Real time journey information
- Two platforms
- Footbridge/underpass
- Lifts/ramps
- Platform seating
- Customer help points
- Train timetable information posters
Possible car park facilities
Connecting the site: A joined-up transport approach

Park & Ride
The long stay car park provides the opportunity to park and ride into London and to other Kent centres

Cycle
Cycle access will be provided to the station

Pick up/drop off
Space has been provided for a pick up / drop off point for motor vehicles

Bus
A stop on the local bus network will be added at the station

Taxi
Space for a taxi rank is allocated in the car park

Walking
Pedestrian access will be provided to the station
What will be the impact on existing railway users and stations?

We have considered the potential for knock-on impacts to the existing rail users and services in the area and we have not identified any major issues.

Future of existing railway stations

Thanet Parkway railway station will be served by existing High Speed and Mainline services between Ramsgate and London. Precise stopping patterns are decided by the Department for Transport and train service operators, but we are confident there will not be a reduction in services to or the closure of any existing station in the area. Trains will not terminate, turnback, split, or combine at Thanet Parkway railway station.

Journey times from / to Ramsgate station

Kent County Council is currently working with Network Rail and Southeastern to deliver infrastructure enhancements and operational improvements that will reduce journey times between Ramsgate and London via Canterbury West by about 10 minutes. These enhancements will more than offset the two minute added time of stopping at the proposed station.

Are there any impacts on the environment?

We recognise that the development may impact on the environment. We will use external experts to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This will include various studies and surveys to ensure that we fully understand the impacts. The outcome of the EIA will define any steps that can be taken to minimise impacts. Some of the key issues are summarised on page 18. For further information see the “potential environmental impact report” on the project website: kent.gov.uk/thanetparkway
An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been completed to see whether the proposed station could affect anyone unfairly. No negative impacts have been identified, but this will be reviewed continuously throughout the project development phase.

A summary of potential impacts of the Parkway Station

- **Visibility**
  - As the station will alter the existing landscape

- **Air quality**
  - Due to the construction and journeys to the station

- **Flooding**
  - Although the site is in a low flood risk area

- **Community**
  - By creating more job opportunities

- **Land use**
  - As the station will be built on agricultural land

- **Noise**
  - Due to construction and use of station

- **Ground conditions**
  - If pollutants are present

- **Archaeology**
  - As the site is in an area of archaeological interest

- **Wildlife**
  - As there are some hedgerows and trees on site

- **Traffic**
  - Due to construction and journeys to/from the station

**Equality Impact Assessment**

An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been completed to see whether the proposed station could affect anyone unfairly. No negative impacts have been identified, but this will be reviewed continuously throughout the project development phase.
What are the anticipated economic benefits?

We believe that the delivery of the parkway station would bring the following economic benefits to the people and businesses in East Kent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journey time to London</td>
<td>Line speed enhancements and operational improvements will result in a journey time of about an hour to London (Stratford International).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to development sites</td>
<td>The central location of the proposed parkway station links with other modes of transport and will improve access to Discovery Park Enterprise Zone, Manston Airport site, Manston Business Park, EuroKent Business Park and Westwood Cross Retail Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investors’ perception</td>
<td>Being within an hour from London will help improve investors’ perception that East Kent is not too remote to invest in. The presence of the new parkway station will show investors that we are committed to making East Kent a long term centre for economic prosperity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wider job market

Improved access to the development sites will help to increase inward investment and lead to new job creation. The improved rail accessibility to London, Ashford and the wider Kent area would enable local people to take up employment opportunities further afield.

Support rail growth

The parkway station will help support the future demand for rail use as the planned housing and employment growth takes place in the area.

Choice and access to High Speed 1 (HS1)

The parkway station will give local people more choice on where they can travel to/from. It will also give more people access to and benefit from HS1 to London.

Funding

The parkway station has the opportunity of £10 million grant funding offered by the central Government. Without delivering the parkway station, this opportunity would be lost.

Value for money

Our value for money assessment has shown that every £1 invested on the parkway station will generate around £2.93 of benefits.
### Other benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park and Ride</td>
<td>The parkway station with its car park facilities will provide easy parking facilitating convenient rail travel into London or local centres such as Canterbury, Ashford or Ramsgate and reducing the need to drive into busy centres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air quality and noise pollution</td>
<td>The parkway station will reduce the number of future car trips passing through the residential area around Ramsgate station, which will lead to improved air quality and reduced noise pollution in the area. This will specifically benefit the High Street St. Lawrence which is designated an Air Quality Management Area, and currently has nitrogen dioxide levels above the standard level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Draft Thanet Local Plan</td>
<td>Supporting housing and employment development identified in the Draft Thanet Local Plan to 2031 Preferred Option.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 6: Have your say

The proposal is still at an early stage of its development. Your feedback is essential to help us shape the design of the parkway station and ensure it best suits the needs of your local community and businesses. Whether you support the proposal or have concerns about it, we want to hear your comments and views.

You can provide your views by completing our questionnaire which is available:

- Online at kent.gov.uk/thanetparkway
- By emailing thanetparkway@kent.gov.uk for a paper copy
- At the consultation events (see overleaf)

Want more information?

Our project website also hosts a number of consultation documents that will give you handy information to read before you complete the questionnaire.

The website includes:

- This booklet
- Draft Equality Impact Assessment
- Station concept layout design report
- Draft business case report
- Alternative options analysis report and
- Potential environmental impacts report.

We have organised seven consultation events across East Kent (see overleaf).
Please drop in and talk to our team at any of the following events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consultation event venue</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cliffsend Village Hall</strong></td>
<td>12/2/2015</td>
<td>12:00 - 20:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foads Lane, Cliffsend, Ramsgate, CT12 5JH</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ramsgate Railway Station</strong></td>
<td>17/2/2015</td>
<td>15:00 - 19:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ticket Hall, Ramsgate, CT11 7RE</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sandwich Guildhall</strong></td>
<td>19/2/2015</td>
<td>12:00 - 20:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castle Market, Sandwich, CT13 9AH</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ramsgate Town Council</strong></td>
<td>21/2/2015</td>
<td>10:00-18:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Room, The Custom House, Harbour Parade, Ramsgate, CT11 8LP</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Discovery Park Enterprise Zone</strong></td>
<td>24/2/2015</td>
<td>10:00– 17:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magellan Suite, Innovation House, Discovery Park, CT13 9FF</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Minster-in-Thanet Library</strong></td>
<td>26/2/2015</td>
<td>14:00-17:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A Monkton Road, Minster, Ramsgate, CT12 4EA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Herne Community Centre</strong></td>
<td>4/3/2015</td>
<td>14:00-20:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St.Martin’s View, off School Lane, Herne, Kent, CT6 7AE</td>
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Please provide your comments by Friday 27 March 2015.

Visit the scheme website at:
kent.gov.uk/thanetparkway

Email us:
thanetparkway@kent.gov.uk

Write to us at:
Freepost MA629
Thanet Parkway Public Consultation
Transport Strategy
1st Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone ME14 1BR

Come to a consultation event:
See page 23 for details