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International. All services connect with London and Kent routes from the town centre and main rail stations.

New developments

Many of the new developments in Dartford link to the Thames Gateway – a major government-sponsored project to increase the number of homes and jobs in the east of London and into Kent and Essex. Dartford's new developments include The Bridge, Ebbsfleet Valley, Swanscombe Peninsula and regeneration schemes within Dartford town centre.

The Bridge is an innovative mixed-use project north of Dartford town and west of the Dartford Crossing. A partnership that brings together Dartford Borough Council, Prologis and Taylor Wimpey, The Bridge features more than 1,500 new homes and 1.8 million square feet of business space - including The Nucleus, a high quality business hub offering advice and support for new and fledgling businesses. Additional units encompass a science park, logistics centre and commercial office space. The Bridge also includes more than

80 acres of public space, Fastrack transport, high quality learning through a new School of the Future, plus sports and leisure facilities.

East of Bluewater new development focuses on **Ebbsfleet Valley**, a sustainable community in a former quarry encompassing new villages and a mixture of commercial and residential use alongside Ebbsfleet International Station. Over 25 years Ebbsfleet Valley will number some 10,000 homes and around 20,000 new jobs. Up to 400 acres of open and leisure space will be created over the next two decades.

The council is working with partners including Gravesham Borough Council and Kent Thameside Regeneration Partnership to prepare an integrated framework for the **Swanscombe Peninsula**, taking into account flood risk and biodiversity value. Key elements of the proposals will include a high quality build development that takes advantage of the unique riverside location, provided within a parkland setting and respecting and enhancing the biodiversity of the area. An eastern extension of the award-

A footbridge links Dartford station with the town centre

