



The Thames Gateway development stretches from London to Essex to Kent. The Olympic development sits on the western edge at Lower Lea Valley. An artist's impression.



A recent demonstration of Swale's emerging attractiveness as a business location is the announcement by Aldi, the international supermarket group, that it is to build a new 56,500m<sup>2</sup> regional office and distribution centre on the Isle of Sheppey. The investment will create 200 jobs, the biggest single employment boost in more than 40 years.

- The continued revitalisation of town centres in Dartford, Gravesend and Sittingbourne.

More recently TGKP has been working closely with its partners and with Government on the next stage, the production of a costed delivery plan setting out all the projects and programmes to be carried out in the Gateway over the next 20 years.

As the voice of Thames Gateway Kent, the Partnership coordinated the area's collective input into the Government's Thames Gateway Interim Plan published last November. TGKP's submission – prepared in collaboration with SEEDA – set out the key priorities for North Kent which needed to be reflected in the overall Plan. These were:

Although Thames Gateway is clearly demarcated, David Liston-Jones believes it would be short-sighted to view Thames Gateway in isolation, saying: "As well as being a building block of the Thames Gateway, the Thames Gateway Kent area is, of course, a building block of the county and of the South East.

"Economic development and regeneration are no respecter of geographical boundaries and while we must recognise that fact, our focus must be to create sustainable communities throughout the Gateway."

- The successful development of Ebbsfleet Valley as a major new business and financial district
- The growth of Medway as an international city of learning, culture, tourism and enterprise
- Taking advantage of the growth opportunities around the A249 corridor

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Picture courtesy of Medway Council



Relaxing times at St Mary's Island, Chatham Maritime