

Fastrack

- 5.3.2 A key element in the Transport Strategy for Kent Thameside is the Fastrack public transport system. *The Fastrack is a network includes of dedicated "track" for use by bus local public transport services. This track will be made up of sections of bus-only road, on-street bus lanes and, where these are not possible because of constraints on existing roads, priority at junctions. It was realised at an early stage that, in order to achieve the regenerative development potential referred to in RPG9a, a new public transport network would be a key to managing travel demand. Fastrack has been developed as a result of two years of study work in 1996-1998, funded with Government assistance. This work confirmed that the key to a successful public transport system for Kent Thameside was segregation from general traffic, to provide fast and reliable public transport journeys. That system also needs to be flexible in its implementation; a tram-based system, for example, would be too inflexible a solution in an area of such rapid change as Kent Thameside. An evolving system of buses with possible, subsequent electrification for use by trolley buses and some potential tram routes, is seen as the best way forward. Initially, Fastrack services are likely to be provided by high quality, green-fuelled buses, with electrification for trolley buses or even introduction of trams a long term possibility.*
- 5.3.3 Design work to date has indicated the land which will need to be safeguarded for Phase One of Fastrack and also for some of the later phases. Phase One will be between Dartford and Gravesend town centres via Darenth Valley Hospital, Bluewater and Ingress Park. The relative timing of other phases will depend on the order in which new development comes forward. For the Major Development Sites and Stone Lodge, only entry and exit points have been identified on the Proposals Map. The exact route of Fastrack through these sites will need to be determined as part of the design and layout of the site.

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Land shown on the Proposals Map is safeguarded for the construction of the Fastrack public transport system. Other development will not be permitted on the land covered by this safeguarding if it would be likely to prejudice the implementation of this scheme.