

NEWS RELEASE

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RAIL LINKS UPGRADE FOR ROMNEY MARSH IS ON THE HORIZON

The development of a modern rail network to serve Romney Marsh has come a step closer following the launch of the Lydd Airport Rail Action Group (LARAG).

The group – which held its inaugural meeting at Lydd Airport on 15 September - believes that improved transport services on the Marsh are vital to the economic regeneration of the region. Upgraded rail links will also support the development of the airport. Representatives from central Government, local authorities, train companies and other interested groups gathered at Lydd to discuss the plans.

Airport marketing director Robin Gordon said he was hugely encouraged by the very positive reaction of those who attended the meeting. Feasibility studies into upgrading existing rail networks in the region, signalling, rolling stock, level crossings, the location of a station to serve the airport and improving bus and coach services were all discussed.

‘The modernisation of rail services across Romney Marsh is a huge project and there are many factors to be considered. We are drawing up a strategic plan to ensure that we involve everybody who has an interest in providing Lydd Airport and the surrounding towns and villages with improved surface transport.’

For more information call Robin Gordon on 01797 322406 or visit www.larag.org.uk

Notes for editors:

London Ashford Airport has embarked on a major redevelopment which will transform Lydd into a modern airport capable of handling up to two million passengers a year by 2014. Over £10m has been spent on resurfacing the runway, upgrading instrument landing systems, a new air traffic control system, new VIP terminal and other improvements. Planning applications will be lodged with Shepway District Council for a new terminal building and an extended runway.

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