

Shepway comprises Folkestone, Hythe, New Romney and Lydd and has a population of around 100,300.

### Transport Links

As home to the Channel Tunnel terminal at Folkestone and London Ashford Airport at Lydd, Shepway offers businesses a location within touching distance of mainland Europe. Further development at Lydd Airport is planned and it is expected to carry up to 500,000 passengers per annum. At the same time, the excellent transport infrastructure ensures easy access to London. With High Speed domestic rail services, Folkestone Central and Folkestone West stations which have both been upgraded with extended parking, are now less than 1 hour away from St Pancras International Station in London.

### Business Potential

Shepway is home to many sites and premises. Shearway Business Park is a key strategic employment site in East Kent located adjacent to Junction 13 of the M20, is the closest business park to the Channel Tunnel (less than 2 miles away) and also only a few miles from the Port of Dover.

Mountfield Road Industrial Estate in New Romney is the largest industrial estate in the Romney Marsh area. Cheriton Parc is another high profile location overlooking the Channel Tunnel Terminal at Folkestone. Adjacent to junction 12 of the M20, this 4.2 hectare site is allocated for office use only. Folkestone is fast becoming an attractive business location with well located business parks and good transport networks. Link Park near Hythe is strategically located close to Junction 11 of the M20 and has planning permission for B1, B2 and B8 uses.

### Recent and Future Developments

There are many positive developments currently underway in the Shepway district, especially within the main town of Folkestone.

A new £40 million state-of-the-art school that opened in 2008 has helped improve educational opportunities in the district. New flagship sports facilities in Cheriton and Hythe are underway and will provide modern, dry and wet facilities. A new shopping centre in Folkestone (Bouverie Place) opened in November 2007, providing over 200,000 sq ft of new floor space, comprising large modern units to attract multiple stores not previously represented in Folkestone and has increased footfall by around 30%.

The vision for the Creative Quarter in Folkestone is to create a bustling street scene with artists' studios, high quality offices for a range of creative businesses, shops, galleries, cafes, restaurants, visitor attractions and homes and, with over £50 million invested in this initiative, much of it is now complete. In late 2008 University Centre Folkestone and Quarterhouse (a Performing Arts Centre comprising a 250 seat multi use venue-£3.5m) opened. Next to the Creative Quarter is a large masterplanned seafront site. This will provide 36 hectares of potential mixed use space and work is already underway on restaurants and public realm improvements at the eastern part of the site.

Hythe is seeing a considerable amount of investment. The flagship Hotel Imperial is currently being transformed through a £12million refurbishment. In February 2011, town centre retail received a welcome boost when a brand new Sainsburys store opened in the town, creating 300 jobs. In West Hythe, Martello Lakes has now received outline planning permission, with the submission of detailed plans expected soon. This site will create 6 hectares of employment land, retail and community facilities and over 1000 homes. On Romney Marsh Little Cheyne Court Wind Farm generates enough energy to power around 30,000 homes.

## Useful Links

Kent Tourism: [www.kenttourism.co.uk](http://www.kenttourism.co.uk)

Shepway District Council: [www.shepway.gov.uk](http://www.shepway.gov.uk)

East Kent: [www.east-kent.co.uk](http://www.east-kent.co.uk)