

4<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Our ref: R00108

## **Freedom of Information Request - Job Creation and Regeneration in Sheppey**

Your Freedom of Information Request, dated 6th May 2009, concerning Job Creation and Regeneration in Sheppey, is as follows:

*RE: Job creativity in Sheppey, Rushenden:*

- a) *What is the level of job vacancies being created for this area?*
- b) *What costs are associated with each job vacancy?*

### **Information Requested**

The community has been involved in developing the masterplan for Queenborough and Rushenden. A "Planning for Real" exercise was held, during which 25 consultation events were held at many locations throughout Queenborough and Rushenden, which had almost 1,000 attendees in total.

ALDI will locate its regional distribution centre at Neats Court, in Queenborough and Rushenden. The 600,000 sq ft ALDI development at Neats Court includes a distribution centre and headquarter office building. This will create at least 250 jobs directly and many more indirectly due to ALDI's policy of sourcing local produce. Jobs created will include office and warehouse staff. There is no cost per job for the tax payer associated with ALDI or any of the other developments on Neats Court, as the initial pump priming investment by SEEDA is being recovered from the private land sales to ALDI and others.

SEEDA and The Crown Estate enabled the ALDI development to begin by purchasing of 60 hectares of 'compensatory' land at Harty Marshes. Planning consent for development at Neats Court was granted subject to various conditions in 2007 and the acquisition of replacement grazing land at Harty Marsh satisfies the final planning condition.

