

From: [REDACTED]
To: ManstonAirport@pins.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: Manston Airport (TR020002) My ref: 20013545
Date: 29 June 2019 00:27:10

Dear Sirs

I am writing again in support of RSP's application to reopen Manston Airport as a cargo hub and passenger airport. This project, which will boost the economy and regenerate the whole of Thanet, under the Government Aviation Policy Framework) which understands aviation to be essential to the economy, enabling investment and trade and making full use of the runway that is presently at Manston Airport (SP05 and EC4)

Thanet needs the airport open and up and running and especial consideration should be given to the areas mentioned below:

“Regeneration of the area Airports attract business. Inflow of new businesses brings money to the area which in turn encourages improvement. RiverOak will be investing nearly £0.5 billion in infrastructure in Thanet and East Kent, which will have an immense effect, even before the additional money from jobs. The people of Thanet are eagerly awaiting this regeneration of the Isle.85% or more of them support Manston returning for Aviation”

“Education & Training The key step to also making the aviation and related jobs accessible to the people of East Kent and Thanet, is education and training. SMAa (Save Manston Airport association) and KNMA (Kent Needs Manston Airport) are extremely pleased that RiverOak have a very pro-active approach to employing local people where possible, and to that end, putting in place relevant education and training. SMAa & KNMA members have used their local knowledge and contacts to facilitate this process, and are spreading the news of these possibilities to the people of Thanet.”

(The above statement: **Regeneration of the Area**, and **Education and Training** was Researched and produced by the SaveManston Airport association(SMAa)-<http://bit.ly/SMAa-Info-Kit> and Kent Needs Manston Airport (KNMA) -<https://www.facebook.com/KentNeedsManstonAirport>)

Good links with Educational establishments locally and also skilled training which would be available, will be a positive and welcomed investment in the young people of Thanet particularly.

In the Azimuth report, Volume 4, Section 6, the issue of investing in skills / education and skills shortages is addressed. The programme proposed by the regeneration of a re-opened Manston Airport would enable, especially, younger people to advance employment prospects and see themselves in the workplace instead of being just another number on the unemployment list. If Education and Training which included Engineering, Technical and Professional training and also “business-focused PhD, masters, undergraduate and commercial research projects to support local companies.” were to be incorporated into local Further and Higher Education facilities, this would benefit the whole county of Kent and not just the local area. East Kent College and Canterbury Christ Church University have sites and campuses all around the county of Kent, including Medway.

Through various published works and particularly in the intense research that has taken place, particularly in RiverOak Strategic Partners' submission reports, it has been shown that a cargo and later passenger airport at Manston has huge potential for success. The report states that upwards of 20,000 jobs could be created in the future; in a region of high unemployment and deprivation.

A cargo airport at Manston would relieve pressure on both Heathrow, Gatwick Airports. This will be particularly essential after Brexit when we will need extra cargo capacity to forge our links with the rest of the world.

The need for cargo movement can only go up over the coming years. Looking at recent reports of the scale and length of building time anticipated, a new runway at Heathrow will take anything up to 30 years to complete and a regenerated Cargo Airport at Manston could help ease the capacity requirement.

The loss of this airport has affected not only Thanet but it has affected people in Kent in general. To get to Heathrow , Gatwick, Luton or Stansted Airports, travellers from East Kent contribute to much additional pollution which is added on this time-consuming journey. The level of pollution is such an issue all over the country, it cannot be right for this level to just rise and rise on these roads as the years go by. An airport at Manston would ease the increased pollution caused by the additional traffic on the Heathrow/Gatwick/Luton/Stansted Airport motorways/roads.

I, and many of my family and friends, used to use the old Kent International Airport to fly to a variety of destinations. Anyone in this area has to travel to Gatwick or Heathrow and one only has to do this trip a few times to realise that the motorway system up to and around these airports is at absolute breaking point. An airport back in Thanet would ease congestion on the approaches to all these other airports. The infrastructure is already in place, with good dual carriageways and motorways from the area.

The Local plans purports to "Support the sustainable development and regeneration of Manston Airport to enable it to function as a local regional airport" In a recent vote, the overwhelming majority of Thanet District Council voted to keep Manston as an airport.

I maintain that the return of aviation to Manston can only be a positive and forward-looking decision and one that should be taken with all speed for the good of the people of Thanet and also the rest of the country.

Finally I would like to say here how very heartened I have been and grateful I feel towards the team of examiners who have undertaken the process of looking at all the evidence and making judgements. You have helped us become part of the DCO process. We have all had so many opportunities to make our feelings known, both in these emails and in person; to see what other people think and to give our own views and opinions and to listen to the experts giving their opinions also. The officers have maintained calm and dignified meetings at every one I have attended.

I thank you all for the way you have conducted these proceedings and remain,

Yours,

Lesley Robertson

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