

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

**Date:**



[Manston Airport](#)

For the attention of the Manston Airport Case Team - Unique Reference: 20014742

13 June 2021 13:47:40

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Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your Statement of Matters dated the 11th June 2021 regarding the re-determination of the application by RiverOak Strategic Partners Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the upgrade and reopening of Manston Airport.

As an Interested Party I write to you as invited, as both a Thanet resident for over 30 years and as Leader of Thanet District Council and the controlling Conservative Group who, throughout the whole process have fully supported the re-opening of the airport.

I fully understand and appreciate the immense value this project will bring to Thanet not only from the inward investment of over £300m to rebuild and create a modern energy efficient airport alongside the aircraft maintenance and repairs but, also the incredible opportunity to provide much needed quality jobs and associated work for our District and the wider east Kent area.

I believe the reopening of the airport is widely supported by the residents and have no doubt that this project is essential for the regeneration and the overall positive future for Thanet.

As I understand it, the main challenge was based on “need” which is rather bemusing as with trade barriers being opened more freely following Brexit which brings with it the need for additional cargo capacity, surely it is an essential requirement for the UK to accommodate such trade to enable fast growth in its economic recovery.

Thanet has a high level of deprivation which is a result of years of high unemployment and a lack of large private inward investment, the “need” to reverse this decline is to reopen and develop the airport.

Local people continuously ask “when will Manston airport have passenger services available again and why is such a huge national asset that our district is lucky to have sitting there wasted and unused” all questions that are difficult to answer.

Therefore, under rule 20(2) of the Infrastructure Planning Rules 2010, I urge the Secretary of State to grant development consent for the development and

reopening of the airport at the earliest opportunity.

Yours faithfully  
Cllr Ash Ashbee