

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Manston Airport](#)
Subject: Submission from Kent County Councillor for Ramsgate regarding Manston Air Cargo Hub.
Date: 09 July 2021 14:18:07

Submission from Kent County Councillor for Ramsgate regarding Manston Air Cargo Hub.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The idea of an air cargo up flying over the homes, schools, businesses and the amenities of Ramsgate is as preposterous, as it will be harmful.

Since 2016 I have been elected four times for both the District Council (x2) and Kent County Council (x2) on a very firm, and public, anti-air cargo hub platform. There is no other Ramsgate politician that has been so frequently returned to public office whilst these proposals have been under discussion.

This speaks to the will of the people when they are able to democratically select political representatives who best mirror their views and raise their concerns.

The vast majority of residents who contact me are extremely concerned that this development **does not go ahead**. I have been told by one business in the creative sector, who adds a great deal of financial and social value to our local economy, that they will be forced to close. Another business in tourism which creates several local jobs will also close its doors. I am told by several families that they will move away.

I have only had one firm, a small taxi company who have said they believe they will benefit. However as the proposal is for a cargo hub not a passenger service I believe even that trade will be minimal.

Business, community and health are set to suffer if this proposal goes ahead. These impacts have not been fully taken into account in **particular the impact on life expectancy and infant mortality**.

Let me outline the headline issues.

There is more than adequate capacity in both freight and belly hold elsewhere, especially East Midlands airport and other London airports. All with preexisting infrastructure and much better air-road-rail links.

The airport is strategically in the wrong place in the U.K.

Fuel will need to be bought in by tankers. Causing more pollution. Contrary to what RSP have claimed there are no negotiations for a fuel pipe.

The flights will be relatively low over many Victorian, Georgian and Regency homes where retro fitting noise reduction will not be possible.

Air and noise pollution do damage health.
Aviation airborne pollution is now know to cross the placenta and enter into the foetus.

Noise prevents children from learning.

Aircraft noise will disrupt and depress our developing tourism industry and the communities use of local amenities such as the beach, parks and gardens.

It's debatable whether, with declining exports (food exports have decreased by 47% since Brexit) whether this increased capacity will be needed.

We are told the air cargo hub will bring much needed jobs. However with AI and automation it's is doubtful that basic warehousing jobs will ever be created. They are being replaced by mega hubs and robotic options at pace and speed across the U.K. and the EU.

If this proposal gets the go-ahead, then neither Thanet District nor Kent County Council will be able to reach their 2030 carbon targets.

I have formally requested KCC leader Roger Gough to make a formal submission to you about this. I have also requested the Public Health Director for Kent to make a submission to you.

Lastly and of fundamental importance -

It is extremely notable that the Air Cargo hub flight paths are directly above 5 wards (which fall in my Ramsgate division) which all have **lower than the national average male life expectancy of 78.7 years.**

Northwood 78.2

Newington 78.0

Central harbour 76.0

EastCliff 73.6

Sir Moses Montefiore 78.6

With regard to infant mortality the rate of infant mortality across Thanet in 2013-2015 was -

3.3 per 1,000 live births.

This is higher than the comparison of 3.0 for Kent as a whole. For Thanet there were 16 infant deaths for the total period, which was an average of 5-6 deaths per year. A huge pain and loss to the families.

I feel any cost benefit analysis must address these issues.

The health of Ramsgate population, including life expectancy and infant mortality rates must be fully taken into account.

Kind regards

Cllr Karen Constantine.

