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Councillor K Morris
Leader of the Council

Direct Line: (01304) 872090
Our ref: AN/DJD/KM
Date: 23 July 2018

Dear Richard

RE: Application by RiverOak Strategic Partners for an Order Granting Development Consent for the upgrade and reopening of Manston Airport – request for Adequacy of Consultation Representation

Thank you for notifying Dover District Council (DDC) of the submission of an application for Development Consent Order regarding the proposed upgrade and re-opening of Manston Airport and for inviting the District Council to provide a representation in response to the Adequacy of Consultation Report.

With regard to Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Planning Act, the Council considers that the Applicant has undertaken adequate pre-application consultation in accordance with such legislative provisions.

RSP consulted on its draft Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) in February 2017 and a further consultation in November 2017. The Council submitted its comments on this document in correspondence dated 24 March 2017 and 14 December 2017. The Applicant allowed 28 days to respond to the SOCC; adhering to associated legislative requirements. In addition, the Council confirms that RSP consulted on a range of documentation, including a Preliminary Environmental Information Report and a study regarding regional and national aviation capacity, during summer 2017 and early 2018. The Council submitted its response to the Applicant on 21 July 2017 and 16 February 2018. Furthermore, officers attended consultation events held by RSP in Sandwich and were content with the nature and depth of the engagement process being undertaken.

Further to the above, RSP also engaged with local Councillors by providing a presentation, setting out an overview of the project, anticipated timescales and engagement strategy, as well as a Q&A session, at a Full Council meeting dated 23 July 2017.

With regard to the detail set out in the Applicant's updated Adequacy of Consultation Report (July 2018), the Council confirms that pre-application engagement was initiated on 8 March 2018 in relation to the preparation of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and feedback was provided on 27 March 2018. Additionally, DDC welcomes RSP's commitment set out in Tables 7.3 and 10.3 to further engage with the Council, as the DCO process advances, on matters identified throughout the pre-application consultation, namely landscape and visual impact, socio-economics, traffic and transportation and noise mitigation. Specifically, the Council would relish the opportunity to work proactively with RSP in maximising the wider benefits of the development proposal for East Kent such as increased connectivity and economic growth, as well as enhanced skills and training.

Furthermore, the Council confirms that a Planning Performance Agreement is currently being negotiated between both parties in order to ensure joint working and optimal outputs throughout the DCO process.

I trust that you find all of the above comments useful and the District Council very much looks forward to continue to be fully involved in the plans by RSP to reopen Manston as a fully operational airport.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further clarifications at this point.

Yours sincerely



Keith Morris
Leader of the Council