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From: Cllr-Jonathan Curran [mailto:Cllr-Jonathan.Curran@THANET.GOV.UK]
Sent: 19 January 2019 15:14
To: Manston Airport
Subject: DCO Manston

In May 2015 I was elected as a local councillor for Garlinge Ward Margate. As a deputy head from Newlands Primary School Ramsgate I had built up excellent educational links with Manston Airport through TG Aviation and the RAF museum.

The school had established a science club that specialised in flight and aerodynamics resulting in Year six children actually flying planes under supervision.

This link then spread to other local schools and the benefit to local children was an understanding of the connections between classroom and the workplace. In the present plans put forward by RSP education links are seen as vital for the development of the local area and this is fully justified and commendable. As well as flying the year six produced a full length feature film based on the book Blitz by Robert Swindell This involved using 1940s vehicles, uniforms locations and use of the runway by cast members and a fly past by a spitfire the film was featured on BBC news and the premiere attended by Brenda Blethryn. So as a local resident that understood the value of Manston I wanted to do all I could to support its reopening.

As a councillor I was on the Overview and Scrutiny panel on October 25th 2016 that objected strongly when TDC all but omitted Manston as an airport in its Economic Growth for Thanet 2016/17 document The original wording stated....

"inland,the Manston Airport site continues to be a major opportunity for Thanet's economy going forward- and it signals the Districts underlying potential. A recent report, commissioned by the Council following consultations a detailed assessment of the air transport market and the potential finances of a re-opened Manston Airport, has concluded that it is lost unlikely that Manston Airport would represent a viable investment opportunity even in the longer term (post2040), and certainly not during the period of the LocalPlan to 2031.

These words did not reflect the overall feelings of the the council members so I demanded a rewrite

The rewrite is as follows and was ratified by the cabinet on 17th November 2016

Inland the Manston Airport site is a serious potential opportunity for Thanet's economy going forward As part of the local plan process TDC will be required to make a decision in relation to the future use of the site for the future direction of economic growth district wide. The plan will be informed by plans commissioned to provide specialist advice to the council in relationship to the feasibility of the future for an airport on the site.

The rewording although subtle was the first indication that Manston would be considered as viable by the council and indeed by March 2018 it had its full backing of the present council administration.

Finally in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 Thanet was the most deprived area in Kent and within the 10% most deprived in England. Thousands of houses on Manston are not going to change those statistics or give a future to the next generation of local children but a cargo hub and all connected aviation industries most certainly will

As an educator and councillor I fully support the reopening of Mansto Airport
Yours sincerely Jonathan Curran

Sent from my i pad
Cllr Jonathan Curran
Garlinge Ward
Thanet District Council

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