

Mr P Tobin



23/01/19

Dear Sirs

I wholeheartedly support the DCO application made by RiverOak Strategic Partners (RSP) to re-open Manston Airport as an international air freight hub, with some passenger flights.

Despite repeated barriers being placed in their path, RSP have consistently displayed their commitment to re-open Manston Airport. Their plans, which have been made public as part of the consultation DCO process, and show they have the determination, professional skill and financial resource to provide an unprecedented investment in Thanet.

I have lived in Thanet all of my life and see on a daily basis, the effects of severe social deprivation and a poor local economy around my local area, and believe that the plans submitted by RSP offer the opportunity for beneficial change.

In order to demonstrate the significance of social deprivation and unemployment within Thanet, I have referred to the research and analysis conducted by Kent County Council and the local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, and have set out specific details in the attached schedule.

In summary, the research data proves that Thanet:-

- Is one of the most deprived areas in the UK
- Suffers from high levels of child poverty
- Has a significant number of low income families
- Has high unemployment and a population of young people with low education, skills and training (a crucial factor that influenced the decision in 2014 by Central Government to award Thanet "Assisted Area Status").

Additionally the NHS Thanet Clinical Commissioning Group report from January 2016 confirmed That Thanet is an area where [quote] *"...Deprivation, crime and unemployment are all statistically higher than the England average...There are limited skilled employment opportunities in the area"*

It's clear to me that in order to break the downward spiral that Thanet has experienced for many years, a significant financial and commercial investment is required to create employment opportunities on a long term basis.

The DCO application made by RSP, provides the opportunity to stimulate the Thanet economy, and subsequently reinvigorate the East Kent area, and begin to alleviate some of the social issues that have been experienced for far too long. Indeed, RSP have plans to work with local education providers to make available significant opportunities for young people to learn skills and gain academic qualifications that would benefit them for life.

I believe that it is clear for all to see, that an economic stimulus is required to regenerate the Thanet economy by creating direct and in-direct employment opportunities, which in turn can reduce unemployment and raise personal income levels.

An air freight hub would also provide the local authority with the opportunity to increase revenue (which central government will now allow them to retain a significant percentage thereof) by charging business rates to new businesses setting up at the airport and within the local area.

By not granting the DCO, it's obvious that the airport would be developed into a giant housing estate, causing substantial negative effects on local infrastructure, health and education services which would be unable to cope with demand. Given the issues proven in the research data I have provided, it's also clear that many local people would be unable to purchase a new build house on the airport site, and no doubt those local people looking to rent a property from a private landlord would find the rent unaffordable.

Indeed, Canterbury City Council recently experienced a situation whereby over 100 former MOD properties had been purchased en masse by a London Borough to house people from their housing waiting list at the detriment of local people and local education and health services (see details in attached schedule). It's not beyond the realms of possibilities that a similar scenario could unravel should houses be built on Manston Airport.

The only people to gain from a housing development on the airport site would be Stone Hill Park Ltd (SHP) and their investors, none of which have any links or loyalty to Thanet, and offer no advantages to local people. SHP appear to be motivated by obtaining significant personal financial gain at the severe detriment of local people and services.

The proposal set out under the DCO submitted by RSP is the only viable option to bring benefit to the Thanet economy and population.



Above all, it brings opportunity and hope to an area all too often overlooked.

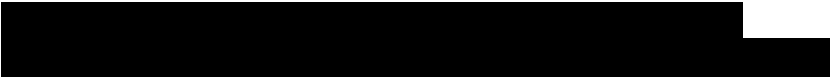

Therefore, the DCO must be granted to ensure the economic regeneration of Thanet and to provide a sound future for generations to come.




Yours faithfully

Paul Tobin

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<p>Kent County Council Business Intelligence Statistical Bulletin October 2015 The English Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2015): Headline findings for Kent</p> 	<p>Thanet was the most deprived local authority in the IMD2010 and remains Kent's most deprived local authority district in IMD2015. Nationally, Thanet is ranked at 21 out of 326 authorities placing it within England's 10% most deprived of authorities.</p> <p>Kent has 902 Lower Super Output Areas, 51 (6%) fall within the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in England in the IMD2015. In the IMD2010 the number of LSOAs within the most deprived 10% nationally was 32 (4%). These LSOAs are spread within seven of Kent's local authorities with Thanet having the highest number and proportion of LSOA within the top10% most deprived LSOAs in England.</p> <p>The highest ranking LSOA in Kent is in Thanet District, within Cliftonville West ward. This LSOA is ranked 4th out of 32,844 LSOAs in England placing it within England's most deprived 1% of small areas.</p>
<p>Kent County Council Business Intelligence Statistical Bulletin March 2018 Child Poverty</p> 	<p>More than a quarter (26.87%) of the children living in low income families in Kent, live in two districts - Thanet and Swale.</p> <p>A lower level super output area in Thanet is the 2nd most deprived in the country for the IMD 2015 indicator measuring children &amp; young people's education, skills and training</p> <p>Thanet and Swale are within the 20% of districts in England with the highest levels (where 19.8% or more children are living in a low income family).</p>

	<p>When compared to other local authorities within the South East five Kent districts (Thanet, Swale, Shepway, Dover and Gravesham) are within the 20% in the region with the highest percentage of children in low income families.</p> <p>Thanet district has the second highest proportion in the region at 22.6%. Thanet and Swale districts have the highest proportions of children in low income families in Kent. Between them they account for more than a quarter (26.8%) of all children living in poverty within the county. 22.6% of all children in Thanet (6,825 children) and 20.3% in Swale (6,480 children) were living in low income families as at 2015.</p> <p>9 of the 23 wards in Thanet (equivalent to 39.1% of Thanet wards) are within the 20% in Kent with the highest proportion of children living in low income families. Almost a third (31.6%) of the wards in the Kent area with the highest levels of children in low income families are in Thanet and Swale.</p> <p>Thanet has the highest proportion of children in low income families in all age groups. They are significantly higher than the county, regional and national average.</p>
<p>Kent County Council Statistical Bulletin November 2018 Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI), 2016</p> 	<p>Thanet has the fourth lowest GDHI per head in the region.</p>
<p>Kent County Council Business Intelligence Statistical Bulletin June 2018 Small area income estimates 2015/16</p> 	<p>Thanet in particular has no area with average net income above £661 per week.</p> <p>Thanet district has no areas with household income before housing costs above £634 per week.</p>

<p>Kent County Council Statistical Bulletin November 2018 Earnings in Kent</p> 	<p>Thanet district has the second lowest weekly workplace earnings of districts in the whole of the South East Region at £464.50.</p> <p>People living in Thanet district have the lowest weekly earnings of the Kent districts, within the bottom 20% in England.</p> <p>Three Kent districts, Dover, Thanet and Folkestone &amp; Hythe, have resident weekly earnings below the national average.</p> <p>In Kent Dartford district has workplace earnings within the top 20% in the country, while Thanet is within the 20% with the lowest.</p>
<p>Kent County Council Kent Economic Indicators 2018 August 2018</p> 	<p>Thanet ranks below the national average in all other indicators, and has been among the bottom 5% in the country for workplace earnings and GVA per head over the last four years.</p>
<p>Kent County Council Business Intelligence Statistical Bulletin January 2018 Gross Value Added (GVA) at 2016</p> 	<p>Thanet had the lowest GVA per head with £15,222 per person.</p> <p>Gravesham, Dover and Thanet districts had the lowest estimated GVA per head out of all the Kent districts (£17,068, £16,161 and £15,222 respectively) and among the lowest in the whole of the South East.</p>

<p>Kent County Council District Unemployment Bulletin 11 December 2018</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Thanet has the highest unemployment rate at 5.2%. ... They account for 21.5% of all unemployed people in the area.</p> <p>Thanet has the highest 18-24 year old unemployment rate in the South East at 8.1%.</p>
<p>NHS Thanet Clinical Commissioning Group "THANET CCG Analysis of Deprived Areas In the most deprived decile for Kent January 2016"</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Thanet is an area in east Kent that includes the coastal towns of Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs and surrounding village areas. The Thanet CCG area is coterminous with the district boundaries. Deprivation, crime and unemployment are all statistically higher than the England average, with higher proportions of vulnerable populations. There are limited skilled employment opportunities in the area, although there are good transport links to Kent and London. Health outcomes are worse than for Kent and England, and inequalities are wider than in any other Kent district. A number of Thanet LSOAs feature in the most deprived decile for deprivation in Kent, mainly around the towns of Margate and Ramsgate.</p>
<p>The Canterbury Journal 19 February 2018 "Howe Barracks' vendors sold public short by up to £4.2 billion"</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Its sale of the Howe Barracks homes to Redbridge was met with universal condemnation in the Canterbury district. And it prompted the Local Government Association (LGA) to launch an investigation into such arrangements.</p>
<p>The Guardian 17 August 2016 "Coastal towns get trendy but will it help the locals?"</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Jonathan Ward, a researcher in cultural labour at Leeds University... "Margate's got all the cool people coming in. It might become a very cool place to be, a very middle-class place to be, but is that really solving the problem of entrenched poverty and social exclusion in the town? East London is now a very expensive place to be but the gentrification there didn't solve its social problems. They moved elsewhere," says Ward. "Margate's got masses of underused, very cheap property, which is the material basis you need for the same kind of gentrification as in East London." But he warns: "The population of Northdown Road is still largely east European. Do they want a coffee/hair/yoga studio? Those things can live side by side, but they aren't without cost. Let's make sure the most vulnerable aren't the ones who pay the highest price."</p>

