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**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Manston Airport response DCO  
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I moved to Thanet in 1976 and have always been a great supporter of Manston Airport whatever its reason for operation.

I fully support the application by Riveroak Holdings to reopen the airport as a commercial airport with the main emphasis on freight and other airport services.

### **Employment**

Besides the immediate employment opportunities at Manston there will be a demand for other East Kent businesses.

There will undoubtedly be ancillary business opportunities which will feed off of the primary employment options.

The likelihood of offering Apprenticeships will give young people a chance to further educate themselves whilst contributing to the work of the airport. There is a clear lack of opportunity for this age group to educate themselves within practical areas of engineering and other similar professions.

### **Air and road congestion**

An airport could help reduce the pressure on air traffic at Heathrow and possibly Gatwick. This could allow additional passenger services to benefit. This would be particularly relevant when the proposed additional runway is built in the central south east.

To lose available airspace in the south east of England would seem to go against all that is being predicted around increased air traffic in the coming years.

Manston airport has been used as a place for emergency landings for redirected flights due to weather conditions or mechanical malfunction.

It is certain that the success of this application would divert some of the pressure from the Port of Dover and the surrounding motorways.

### **Re-Cycling**

There will be a dedicated site to dismantle and dispose of redundant aircraft safely and efficiently.

### **Additional considerations**

I understand that these matters may not directly relevant to the Application in hand but they are significant on a human level.

When Manston Airport was operational it was, in my opinion. The “heart” of the local area. It offered air shows, a base for the Red Arrows and other historical aircraft who were flying at south east air shows.

Many families and children would never get an opportunity to see a flying Spitfire or Lancaster bomber. They are unforgettable experiences for young and old.

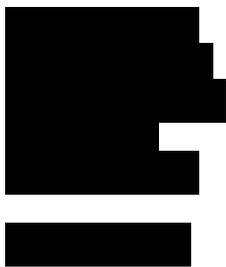
British Airways used it as a base to train their staff in the new Dreamliner aircraft.

Manston is an important historical airport. The value of this can be seen by those attending the Spitfire Museum and who would then observe aircraft from the cafe area.

If any of these things are made available at the airport in the future they should not be underestimated as they will give future generations, who did not experience the impact of war, an understanding of the part their local area played.

The historical interest is great and irreplaceable, and there is much to be lost if this application is not successful.

Thank you



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