

From: [REDACTED]
To: manstonairport@pins.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: Manston Airport project
Date: 14 February 2019 18:51:47

I support RSP's DCO Application for the re-opening of Manston Airport for cargo/freight and some passenger services.

The location of Manston Airport is in a strategic position on Kent's gateway coast between England and Europe. The airport is served by good main roads, A299, M2 plus High speed rail Ramsgate to London in well under 2 hours.

The importance of this part of the Kent gateway coast regarding freight transport to overseas destinations has come into current national focus at Parliament level with imminent Brexit. If Manston Airport was operational now as a fully functioning airport, it could have served in an efficient way to ease the difficulties and possible delays expected to freight traffic during and following the Brexit transition.

The UK is entering an era of more potential global trade after Brexit..it will become more necessary for goods, especially food, to be imported speedily from afar to satisfy the needs of the UK's increasing population.

The demands for more commercial aviation in the heavily populated south east of the UK is inevitable. Cargo business as a priority at Manston means a quicker turnaround for perishables; fruit, vegetables, flowers etc. to get them on the road to their final destinations.

Approximately 15 miles further along the same coast is the busy port of Dover. Manston Airport could complement some sea/air journeys.

RSP's plans utilising all the existing airport land for aviation and aviation related purposes, means the expansion of operations from what was previously there. This will bring much needed employment opportunities to the area, including apprenticeships, education, engineering training as well as employment in subsidiary businesses.

Manston Airport's runway is exceptionally long, wide and very heavy duty . Can we afford to waste this existing national asset to housing development (which is easily accommodated elsewhere) through lack of foresight of our future economic needs? The airport could have a significant role in our future national and local economy.

RSP is offering a very substantial investment in this airport and particularly with Brexit, we need to send a message out globally that business investment in the UK is welcome.

I am hopeful that Manston Airport will be re-opened to become a successful renewed regional airport as a national and local asset.

Regards,
Cherry Walker,
[REDACTED]

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