

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Manston Airport](#)
Subject: For the attention of the Manston Airport Case Team
Date: 21 June 2021 17:49:58

Dear Sir/Madam

Re-determination of the Application by RiverOak Strategic Partners Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the reopening and development of Manston Airport in Kent.

The quantitative need for this Development has been affected since 2019 because of Brexit and Covid. As seen at the beginning of the year (2021), when there were large queues both sides of the channel of freight waiting to enter and leave the UK. The re-instatement of Manston airport as a freight hub would considerably reduce the load and strain on the Port of Dover and thereby allow them to be more stringent in their checks for illegal goods and persons. Yes, the amount of traffic on the local roads would increase but we would also see a decrease in and around the roads of Dover. This would mean less traffic queueing on the M20, waiting to enter the docks. It would also reduce the number of vehicles using the lorry park recently created by this government just off the M20 near Ashford. The re-instatement of Manston as a freight hub would also reduce the load on other airports, allowing them to process more passengers. Manston as a passenger airport is, in my view, not viable, as a large part of its catchment area is water. The diversity of flight destinations would be highly restrictive due to costs and the lack of passenger numbers. This has already been seen at Manston, when previous companies have tried to run passenger routes along with freight.

The alternative use of Manston is for housing and business development and is both inappropriate and damaging to the area. Because of where Thanet is situated, Businesses would not find the location attractive and therefore not relocate to the area. Those that did would more than likely have an interest in the mobility of goods and services across the channel. The Development would cause the village of Cliffsend to disappear and become a suburb of Ramsgate, something I do not want to see. Because I believe new business would not be attracted, then the area known as Thanet would become a commuter belt with large numbers of the populous traveling to and from work. This would considerably increase the amount of traffic on the local roads, even with the pandemic allowing workers to be more flexible on where they work from. This would cause Thanet to become a weekend area where local amenities are used during that period and drastically reduce during the week. A good example of this kind of economy would be the town of Ashford in Kent, where the majority of workers commute away from the area.

In closing, I would like to state that I am in favour of Manston airport being upgraded and reopened as an airport.

Yours faithfully

Robert Higman