

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Manston Airport](#)
Subject: For the Attention of the Manston Airport Case Team
Date: 28 June 2021 15:49:42

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to offer my support and express my wish for Manston Airport to operate as a functioning airport again.

The main issue for me is how an investment injection of over £300m will be extremely useful towards the re-juvenation of East Kent. It will boost the local economy and enable the region to catch up with western Kent. West Kent has benefited over the decades by virtue of being located on the periphery of London. East Kent has not had that kind of benefit, and without investment in the region, eastern Kent will continue to fall behind.

The sort of investment planned by RiverOak will also give local employment a much needed boost. The positive headline employment rate for the county misleads, because again, western Kent benefits from near full employment due to its closeness to London, whilst unemployment in eastern Kent offsets this to such an extent that the county as a whole averages only slightly better than the UK average. Furthermore, RiverOak have teamed-up with the local Save Manston Airport Association to enable working with local schools, colleges and universities, promoting the air freight industry with aviation-related studies and offering apprenticeships as a springboard for life-long careers. Local knowledge and investment joining together to help the region can only be a good thing.

The owners of Manston Airport have strong air freight links with European airports on the German/French border, as well as Italy. Manston is ideally located on the Kent coast, not much more than 21 miles away from continental Europe. A growing population centring around London and the south-east can only benefit from these trading routes importing from and exporting to the most-developed economies in Europe.

I highlight below the owner RiverOak's plans for Manston, if given the go-ahead from the UK Government.

RSP will invest over £300m into rebuilding a state-of-the-art 21st century airport at Manston, which includes an air freight hub and proposals to develop aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul facilities and end-of-life recycling facilities; a flight training school; a fixed base operation for executive travel and business facilities for aviation-related organisations. We hope for the airport to re-open late 2023.

Allowing RiverOak to re-open Manston Airport would save the UK Government from having to spend money on it, when airport capacity for freight and passengers in the south-east are at bursting point. Using Manston for air freight will not only ease the congestion on other nearby airports, but will also ease the congested roads of lorry freight between Folkestone and London.

Another reason for saving Manston is for its history. Manston is one of the few left throughout the UK that witnessed action from over 100 years ago, when it was opened as a Royal Navy station in 1916 during the Great War. I believe Manston is one of the few airports in the UK that has a runway long enough to land a space shuttle.

Re-opening the airport makes sense for the people living in the region in the present and in the future. It also pays respect to the RN and RAF workforces who used the location when

called into action during the past 105 years.

Yours sincerely,

Francis Bray,

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