

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MANSTON AIRPORT CASE TEAM**

**FROM...CLLR. LYNDA PIPER.**

**Councillor, Thanet District Council**

**Councillor, Ramsgate Town Council**

**RESPONSE TO INVITATION TO WRITE REGARDING MANSTON AIRPORT**

Sirs,

Thank you for this opportunity to write to you regarding our hope that you will confirm your earlier decision to grant the DCO for this much needed airport.

I have been an elected local representative for more than 5 years and am aware that the majority of people in Thanet support the re-opening of our airport and support the idea of investment and job creation which is so desperately needed.

I wish to refer specifically to some of the issues you have asked about...

**1A - POLICIES**

***"The extent to which current national or local policies (including any changes since 9 July 2020 such as, but not limited to, the re-instatement of the ANPS\*) inform the level of need for the services that the Development would provide and the benefits that would be achieved from the Development".***

***\*ANPS is the Airports National Policy Statement***

**Policies**

1) Thanet District Council Local Plan

This was adopted in July 2020. On page 30 of the plan there is the TDC Policy (SP07) on Manston Airport which safeguards it for airport related activities.

**1B - BENEFITS OF THE DEVELOPMENT**

Thanet has high unemployment and levels of deprivation. I write as a former teacher who has experience of teaching around the country but particularly in Kent. Job opportunities in this area are very limited. The airport would offer training in engineering and technical skills. RSP could liaise with Canterbury University for all manner of useful careers in the airport industry. Some of the youngsters I have taught are now parents themselves and still not working because there is no investment. RSP offers them all hope for the now and for the future. Please support their efforts.

We have many B&B and hotel establishments that would offer overnight accommodation for pilots and staff. Local courier businesses would flourish with distributing goods across Kent. The possibilities are endless. People in Thanet need a chance to have a future, a home of their own, a vocation and a legacy for future generations.

Unemployment and Deprivation have negative health implications.

### **Health Inequalities :**

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/.../what-are-health...>

This has been made worse by the pandemic. The development will provide training and jobs for locals which will reduce unemployment and deprivation.

## **2A - EFFECT OF COVID**

*"Whether the quantitative need for the Development has been affected by any changes since 9 July 2019, and if so, a description of any such changes and the impacts on the level of need from those changes (such as, but not limited to, changes in demand for air freight, changes of capacity at other airports, locational requirements for air freight and the effects of Brexit and/or Covid)".*

### **COVID**

One effect of Covid has been to considerably reduce the number of passenger flights. This has illustrated the fact that the UK has an over-reliance on bellyhold freight and a consequent lack of freighter capacity.

<https://www.iata.org/.../cargo.../e-commerce-logistics/>

The growth in e-commerce will increase the demand for dedicated freighters. Here is an article that demonstrates the point

### **Soaring e-commerce and the need to support aviation**

**25 / 06 / 2021**

**By Alex Veitch, Logistics UK's general manager of public policy**

#### **Alex Veitch**

At the start of June, Logistics UK partnered with Aberdeen Standard Investment's AIPUT (Airport Industrial Property Unit Trust) to present government with a call for action over the future of air freight, writes Logistics UK's Alex Veitch.

In the proposals presented, 11 key recommendations were made to enable the UK to facilitate the sustainable growth of its vital airfreight industry.

One of these recommendations focused on consumer behaviour. According to Logistics UK's Logistics Report 2021, online retail averaged 28.1% of retail sales in 2020, a large increase compared to 19.2% in 2019.

While e-commerce was on the rise prior to the pandemic, Covid-19 has seen consumers relying on online shopping and doorstep deliveries more than ever before.

And consumer behaviours over the course of the pandemic, and recent years, have also changed; just-in-time and next day deliveries – often at low, or no, delivery costs – are no longer an ambition, but have become an expectation.

To support this demand, express freight airlines operate a significant number of services. However, with the UK one of the top three online shopping nations around the globe, industry must continue to innovate.

Logistics UK is calling on government to facilitate the movement of airfreight throughout the day and, where possible, at night to keep goods moving and reaching their end customers in good time.

Included in the 11 key priorities – and to be explored in future columns – were infrastructure, the need for government to promote and develop a positive public perception of aviation, innovation, decarbonisation and airfreight growth.

A healthy airfreight sector is a crucial part of the new digital economy and must be recognised and supported as such. Logistics UK will continue to work with government and the aviation industry to ensure air freight is able to reach its full potential as a key driver of economic growth and as a crucial component of a Global Britain.

**Alex Veitch is Logistics UK's general manager of public policy**

## **BREXIT**

Brexit has brought its own issues and recent difficulties at the Port of Dover have highlighted the need for more air freight to serve the South East and beyond.

Sirs,

There is a lot of emotion and false information being bandied around in Thanet by groups opposed to the airport. Many are only concerned about the value to their property. One reason given for not having the airport open was interrupted sleep patterns - how do the densely populated areas around Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted cope? My husband was a helicopter mechanic in the Army serving in Middle Wallop and in BAOR - families get used to the noise and it is not a problem. These groups are generally small with not many members. Recently Ramsgate Town Council wrote to oppose the airport. Neither myself nor my husband Cllr Stuart Piper, supported the Council letter, nor did other members of the chamber. However, there were enough members who voted along party political lines for them to claim the letter had council support. It did not. It does not have the support of residents either.

