



Manston Airport Case Team
National Infrastructure Planning
The Planning Inspectorate

23 June 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 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.

I am responding as an interested party to the letter from the Department for Transport dated 11 June 2021 inviting further representations in respect of the Secretary of State’s re-determination of the Application by RiverOak Strategic Partners.

Discovery Park, located on the edge of Sandwich close to Manston Airport, has been one of the most successful Enterprise Zones in the UK and this success has been recognised by Office for Life Sciences with the award of Life Sciences Opportunity Zone status.

Enterprise Zone status and government support has contributed hugely to our success and Discovery Park has grown to over 160 companies with 3,500 employees based on site. There is a growing focus on science and health companies, bringing high value jobs to the local economy and playing an important role in the UK life sciences sector.

Our vision is to build on this success and drive forward with ambitious plans to make Discovery Park a world leading science park in the next 5-10 years, with a focus on developing and growing life sciences, engineering and technology businesses. The ambition is for the development of a Manufacturing Village, with a strong focus on digital enablement and AI, in line with the government’s plan for the Office for Science and Technology Strategy to maximise the opportunities of scientific and technological breakthroughs.

Discovery Park continues to support the proposals to re-open Manston Airport and the opportunities that renewed cargo and passenger air links can bring to boost economic development, regeneration and inward investment opportunities for the site and throughout East Kent.

Improved accessibility to key markets delivered through the investment in infrastructure is fundamental to attracting new businesses to Discovery Park, and sustaining the local and national economy. East Kent has benefited from substantial improvements to rail and road infrastructure in recent years. The investment in the new Thanet Parkway station, to be opened in 2022, will further complement and support our businesses community and both the future commercial and residential development of the site.

Importantly, having fast and reliable transport links into London, Europe and the world is pivotal for the future growth of nationally significant Life Science and innovation cluster at Discovery Park and support the government's aspirations for Global Britain.

Yours sincerely,

Mayer Schreiber, CEO

|