

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MANSTON AIRPORT CASE TEAM

MANSTON AIRPORT

Supporting Statement showing evidence of Need:-

NEED :

We NEED to Consider the deprivation and lack of jobs in Kent

We need to Consider the Infrastructure

We need to Consider the £300m investment RSP wish to make in Kent, the trade it could attract, and the jobs that will become available

Thanet District Council Local Plan Pg 30 TDC Policy (SP07) – safeguarding MANSTON AIRPORT for airport related activities July 2020

- 1) Airport National Policy Statement (ANPS) refers to making best use of existing runways – Manston has one of the longest runways in the country; why fund a 3rd runway at Heathrow when Manston Airport already exists.
- 2) Utilising the existing airport at Manston in Kent, for freight/cargo, would ‘free up’ space for passenger flights at other UK airports.
- 3) See the NEED for Air Freight indicated on pg 14 (2.7), ANPS and
- 4) The NEED for Increased Airport Capacity ANPS 2.10-2.18 pgs 15 and 16

There is a NEED because Thanet is a deprived area with the highest unemployment in Kent, particularly in the 18-24 age range. (<https://www.kent.gov.uk/.../Indices-of-Deprivation.../District-unemployment...>)

There is an URGENT need for RSP’s plans to develop Manston Airport including the provision of training, apprenticeships and jobs for local people which will reduce unemployment and deprivation (see table from Volume IV, pg 28 of the Azimuth report - APP-085). The Azimuth report lists the following direct jobs at airports in Europe as follows:- Airlines, ground handling, airport and air traffic control, retail and other in-terminal services, airport security and passenger screening, customs, immigration and government jobs, ground transport, food and beverage, maintenance repair and overall (MRO). <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/...>

There is a NEED, now that we have left the European Union, to enable trade deals with other countries. It is anticipated that Great Britain will stretch its net far and wide, increasing imports and exports from alternative markets worldwide (Japan, for example, <https://www.gov.uk/.../uk-and-japan-sign-free-trade...>) and (Australia, <https://www.gov.uk/.../uk-agrees-historic-trade-deal-with...>)

The Airport Industrial Property Unit Trust and Logistics UK held a policy meeting across the airline industry, discussing the future of the air freight industry and outlining priorities. <https://logistics.org.uk/.../Logistics-UK-call-to-action...>

There is a NEED to acknowledge the poverty and deprivation in Thanet and to recognise that Thanet in particular will benefit hugely with an airport (that is already in situ) close to the seaport of Dover. (Past blockades and strikes on the continent have caused havoc in this area, particularly where perishable goods are concerned: [https://www.mirror.co.uk/.../port-dover-closed-fears-food ...](https://www.mirror.co.uk/.../port-dover-closed-fears-food...)) Dedicated freighters at Manston Airport would help avoid or even alleviate this problem. Freight being transported by road/ship from abroad - via Dover - could be flown direct from Manston to elsewhere in the UK and even further afield, lessening pollution and avoiding road congestion.

We NEED our own airport. It seems there are always traffic jams and/or accidents on the motor-way journey. At present, we have a 2 to 3 hour journey from Thanet to London Gatwick or London Heathrow. We have to drive there and pay for parking whilst away, stay in a hotel overnight for an early flight, or pay for a taxi there and back. We call Thanet 'another planet'; as if we live 'at the back of beyond'!

We need Manston Airport to BOOST and encourage TOURISM : When we have passenger flights, Manston could fly tourists in from abroad to visit attractions such as Leeds Castle, Canterbury, the Turner Museum, the London Resort etc, Ramsgate Tunnels, the Garden of England and beautiful coastline with coaches and onward train via the planned Parkway Station close to the airport.

We NEED Manston Airport as it is very close to Discovery Park in Sandwich and other industrial estates in Thanet. Pfizer are still there and, with COVID, I imagine an airport 'on the doorstep'; would be an asset with regard to exporting vaccine, just as, I feel, a cargo hub would be welcomed for the freight imports and exports of other factories and businesses. There are other vacancies 'on site' too, which, I believe, could attract industry and manufacturers to this area with an airport so close by.

There is an URGENT NEED for a cargo hub at MANSTON - especially as trade demand is set to grow, increasing the demand for air freight: *World Trade Organisation – Global Trade Growth :*
https://www.wto.org/english/newse/pres21_e/pr876_e.htm

As the growth in e-commerce continues there will be a NEED to *increase* the demand for dedicated freighters.

Qatar Airlines are hungry for freighters : <https://www.aircargonews.net/.../qaar-airways-hungry>.

The Environment & Pollution As far as Thanet is concerned, I wish to point out and emphasise that the flight path in and out of Manston Airport is predominantly over the sea. Manston is NOT Ramsgate; and RAMSGATE is not Manston! Offshore, we have one of the largest windfarms in the world and it continues to expand. We have had an airport in Thanet since the first world war. My family has lived in Ramsgate since before the second world war. I can promise you that no plane has never 'skimmed' our roof-tops (as some falsely claim). Ramsgate is famous for its Regency and Victorian buildings, all, I hasten to add, still standing and unaffected by flight or fumes other than German bombers in the war. Nor can there can be much pollution because our washing has been hung outside on the line. We have "anti s" here, who never lived here when Manston was open as an airport but they frighten people by saying planes cause miscarriages, planes skim roofs, children's education will suffer and such-like. I presume (and hope?!) this is NOT the case for Heathrow or Gatwick, where far more people live and the sea doesn't form part of the flight-path?!

The majority of people in Thanet DO want the Airport as illustrated by Thanet North & Thanet South MP's who are both avid supporters of our Airport.

As far as I am aware, Thanet has never had such an investment as RSP are proposing? We are so grateful to them for their commitment to this small isle and excited at their plans and ideas to make Manston an airport again. With electricity and hydrogen being spoken of, even space travel and flying cars, the future looks bright, with exciting prospects for the unemployed here and educational and work opportunities for our young people. Remember our history too, please, our heritage and our culture; our brave pilots and crews - from commonwealth countries plus Poland and the USAF. Some are buried at Manston. We will remember them.

Mr K.A. & Mrs A P Webster