

I would like to strongly support the reopening of Manston Airport as a freight hub. There are already excellent travel links by both train and road and following both Brexit and Covid there is a need for more global trade.

As a former Pfizer Ltd. employee for some 38 years I am fully aware of the drastic effect the nearly full closure of Pfizer had on the area. At its height there were some 6000 employees, many highly qualified and others acting as support staff. Likewise there were many local companies providing support roles. There is therefore an overwhelming need for jobs in the area. The airport would provide such jobs again at all levels such as engineering and many others disciplines.

Alternative solutions for example the proposal to build a massive housing estate on the Manston airport site, was made without any consideration of the effect on the area. There is a lack of infrastructure required for such a huge estate. Thanet already has a water shortage and problems with sewage disposal and contamination of beaches. There is also a shortage of doctors. One can also envisage severe strain on schools, social services and the police.

The airport would provide much needed prosperity to an area often wrongly lumped in with the so-called prosperous South East.

Regards,

David Wood, 