

For the attention of the Manston Airport Case Review Team

Invitation to comment on the Arup Report.

Submissions due by 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021

Cllr. Rev. Stuart Piper.

[REDACTED]

Sirs,

I am taking the opportunity to respond in the latest round. I have previously responded to yourselves.

It seems to me that this 'new' report is more like a rehashing of the old one and has not really considered the new information and opportunities since July 2019.

One key difference of course is the ownership of the site. This is surely a key point because it means that the commitment to the site has already been shown and means too that the risk of business failure, in the unlikely event of such an outcome is entirely at the risk of the owners and investors.

The people of Thanet and beyond are very fortunate to have people willing to invest and grow, not only the local economy but also the national economy and therefore RSP should be given every assistance there is.

The report does not offer any considerations to the matter of need in the Sec of State's decision letter.

The footnotes have been redacted which is not much help.

The report seems to assume that the growth of E-Commerce would not be of any benefit to anyone not least a state of the art facility here in Kent.

I referenced one report in my previous comments and the latest report criticises that reference unjustly. That report is about the growth in online business which it says is expanding and should not be used solely as a comparison chart between belly freight and dedicated cargo freight. Nor should it be used in any argument about Night Flights. I believe RSP have made their position clear over and over again. The Veitch report is very positive.

Here it is again. I believe it is important to note how recent it is.

***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***

Here is another useful link about future growth. Europa Air & Sea predicts rising airfreight demand on transatlantic.



The 'New' report instead seems to focus on the period 2009 – 2019 and not 2019 onwards, where as I have already mentioned the evidence suggests a rapidly expanding market and we need companies to be ready to take this forward rather than sit back and analyse, say in 2041, how we failed to prepare two decades earlier.

The method of delivering the freight will always vary according to volume and size of that which is to be delivered.

Then there is the shift to **narrow-bodied aircraft** with less cargo capacity. The report accepts that this supports the case for Manston but considers it is not sufficiently significant. Why?

On matter of **resilience** it does at least agree that Manston would provide this but considers this would not be to a sufficiently decisive degree. Why?

It should be remembered that demonstrating need is not a policy requirement, as acknowledged in the [REDACTED] (paragraph 17 – albeit distinguishing Stansted from Manston)

If the owners of Manston Airport wish to take the risk that customers would welcome a world-leading freight-handling facility in the south east of England, to realise the opportunities afforded by e-commerce, global Britain and increased trade deals, then they should be able to do so, rather than adopting this report's outlook of more of the same with shrinking GDP.

It begs the question then, why are the opportunities of post Brexit trade deals not sufficiently considered and given more weight?

I urge you to maintain the original decision and allow Manston Airport the opportunity to prosper.

By doing so, I firmly believe you will be creating the opportunities for business growth and development as well as the opportunities for job creation for an impoverished part of the country, at a level not seen since post war Britain.

This is our opportunity to fight our way out of deprivation and to deny us the opportunity would be tantamount to condemning the area to poverty and declining standards of living for many decades to come.

Respectfully Yours,

Cllr. Rev. Stuart Piper.