

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Manston Airport](#)
Subject: Ref: TR020002
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Mr Mike Jackson

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Dear Sirs,

The Isle of Thanet nudges out into the North Sea, surrounded on three sides by the North Sea and the English Channel.

Its beaches offer some of the most picturesque locations in the county, people would travel far and wide to holiday on the Thanet coast in the 60s and 70s, packing up their families and revelling in the bustling seaside atmosphere.

But there is one fact about Thanet - its deprivation and lack of social mobility. As both ministers - **Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and **Jeremy Pocklington**, Permanent Secretary, Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities would be able to tell you.

Thanet has the second highest child poverty rates in the south of England and the highest in Kent, according to a report released by Loughborough University on behalf of coalition End Child Poverty.

According to the research some 37% of youngsters aged under 16 on the isle are living below the poverty line after housing costs – equating to 9943 children. The ‘poverty line’ is defined as household income (adjusted to account for household size,) that is less than 60% of the median income.

The area consistently ranks high in UK-wide studies of poverty - last month the Social Mobility Commission published the report 'The long shadow of deprivation,' asking the following: "does growing up in one town rather than another change your life chances? How unequal are outcomes between places across the country? And why do these differences exist?"

Their answer is an overwhelming 'yes', and Thanet sits alongside other UK towns like Bolton, Gateshead and Chiltern, lacking in opportunities, industry and employment.

Thanet's lack of social mobility and high deprivation is well-documented by Kent County Council, The Department of Work and Pensions and sociology researchers.

I strongly believe that RiverOak Strategic Partnership can help in tackling some of the Isle of Thanets problems, not all, but can give a lot of young people, who can aspire to have a better life. Not one company, since the previous owners of Manston Airport, Planestation (formerly Wiggins Group) has shown so much commitment to Thanet and its airfield at Manston Airport.

After Planestation sold its stake in Manston Airport, a lot of promises and a chance land grab by the previous owners who pretended to want to invest heavily in to Manston Airport, but really had other ideas and asset stripped it and had plans for more housing, which would have been disastrous to the Isle of Thanet.

An open Manston Airport can not only offer and create jobs at the airport but also within the district as well as East Kent, it could rejuvenate Ramsgate Harbour which like the airport has been left without any investment.

There are so many reasons why we need this investment in to Thanet, many past governments have promised and failed to invest in Thanet over the past decades.

This is a chance to level up a forgotten part of the UK, a much, deprived area, who now, has a glimmer of hope. There are many spin offs to Manston Airport being in operation, to keep heavy freight off the roads, in an already congested South East roads, with freight flown direct to Manston, then down to the Port of Ramsgate, then on to barges, then floated up to the likes of London, or via Rail by the new rail link being built at Manston Airport.

I ask you to give the go ahead to RiverOak Strategic Partnership, to invest not only in to Manston Airport, but the Isle of Thanet and East Kent, it will cost the tax payer nothing to let this achieve its potential, if not more.

Many thanks

Mike J