

I would like to add my thoughts regarding Manston Airport. I am very aware that you have already received many weighty tomes on the subject and so I don't intend to add too much to the burden. There are already too many people who confuse quantity with quality.

Much of the objection to the airport has come from a group of people rather unkindly referred to by Thanet locals as DFLs or "Down From London"ers. I moved here in 1989 from Aylesbury yet I doubt that even after 32 years am I considered local. I'm a veteran of the fight against the siting of London's third airport at Cublington¹ so can hardly be accused of being a "plane spotter"; one of the derogatory terms used to describe those supporting the RSP plans for Manston Airport.

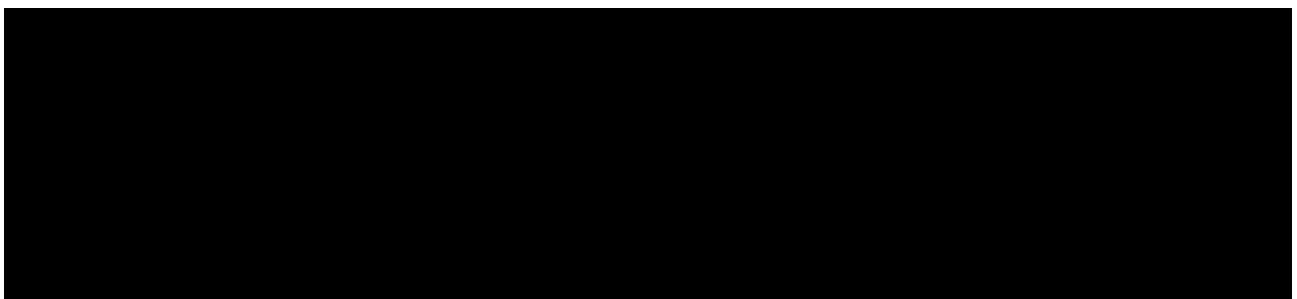
Throughout this entire process most of the considerations have focused on whether UK plc needs another airport and thousands of pounds have been expended on endless consultation reports, all contradicting each other. Most of the evidence has been superseded by events - Brexit and Coronavirus – and must now surely be treated with some caution. In any event, the reports are very contradictory and do seem to mirror the views of the body that commissioned them.

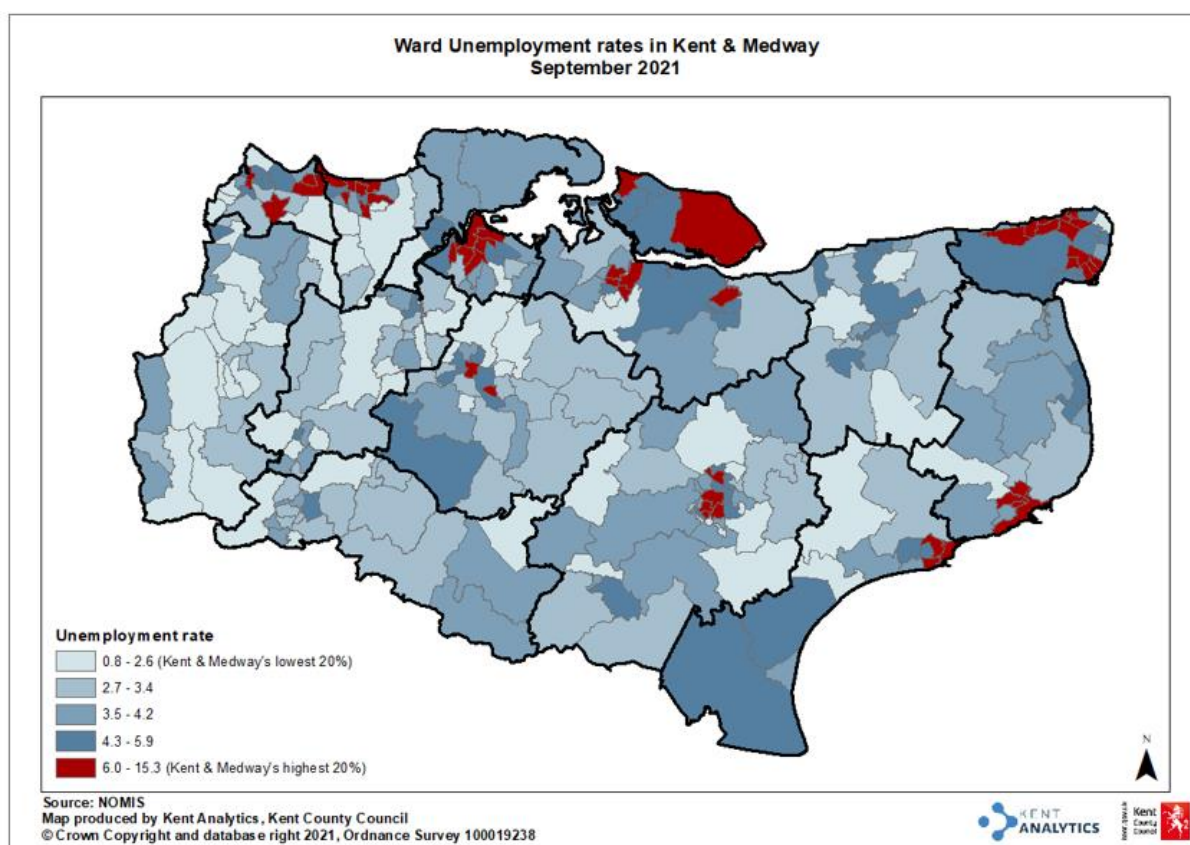
The question of whether there is a commercial need for the airport is therefore surely one for the owners and their backers. No government money is at risk in its development, so the only risk is to RSP. In this respect I see no reason why the government needs to be concerned.

There is, however, an area that was not explored in any great depth during the Examination. Thanet is an area of the country that is heavily reliant on tourism and the uncertain employment that accompanies it. In their written response to the DCMS call for evidence regarding the impact of Covid19 to the local economy, Thanet District Council confirmed that "Thanet's coastal towns already face challenges relating to seasonality"² In the same document they confirmed that tourism accounts for 7,950 jobs, which is 20% of the local workforce.

Much of the work that is available is part-time, zero-hours or gig economy and the very nature of the reliance on tourism means that much work is only available for a part of the year, yet some local groups are still arguing for the local economy to be based around it. This argument only reinforces the reliance on uncertainty in the labour market, reveals much about the background of those most shrill in their endorsement and is long overdue for replacement with a sustainable economy based on real, full time, well-paid and contracted jobs.

One in ten adult males and one in sixteen adult females in Thanet were unemployed in September 2021; in total 6375 people were out of work that month, 7.9% of the population.³ These are the highest rates in Kent; an unenviable record that is repeated every month. 9% of the workforce are in the care and leisure sector with a further 11% in sales and customer service; neither particularly well paid nor recognised as highly skilled (even though they often are). There are 18,325 Universal Credit claimants for Thanet across all categories, including those in work, as of September 9.





When talking about deprivation, the southeast of England doesn't immediately come to mind; after all, surely the Southeast is the richest part of the country, or so we are led to believe? Of course, this isn't true; Kent is more than its constituent parts and whilst Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells are indeed affluent Thanet regularly features in the list of worse deprivation.

Educational attainment in Thanet. Thanet has a high level of residents with either no qualifications or qualifications equal to 1 or more GCSE at grade D or below, worse than the national average. A significant number of Thanet-born university students do not return to the area upon graduation, including my children.

| QUALIFICATION | THANET | KENT | ENGLAND |
|-------------------|--------|-------|---------|
| No Qualifications | 28.4% | 22.5% | 22.5% |
| Level 1 | 14.8% | 14.7% | 13.3% |
| Level 2 | 16.4% | 16.9% | 15.2% |
| Apprenticeship | 3.9% | 3.8% | 3.6% |
| Level 3 | 11.3% | 12.3% | 12.4% |
| Level 4 | 19.6% | 24.7% | 27.4% |
| Other | 5.6% | 5.1% | 5.7% |

Qualifications (Jan 2020-Dec 2020)

| | Thanet (Level) | Thanet (%) | South East (%) | Great Britain (%) |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| NVQ4 And Above | 21,700 | 26.5 | 45.1 | 43.1 |
| NVQ3 And Above | 43,200 | 52.8 | 63.8 | 61.3 |
| NVQ2 And Above | 58,600 | 71.7 | 80.5 | 78.1 |
| NVQ1 And Above | 70,100 | 85.8 | 90.2 | 87.7 |
| Other Qualifications | # | # | 5.0 | 5.9 |
| No Qualifications | 7,500 | 9.2 | 4.8 | 6.4 |

Source: ONS annual population survey

Sample size too small for reliable estimate ([see definitions](#))

Notes: For an explanation of the qualification levels see the definitions section.

Numbers and % are for those of aged 16-64

% is a proportion of resident population of area aged 16-64

Thanet has 20% fewer Higher and Intermediate managerial, administrative or professional households than the national average.

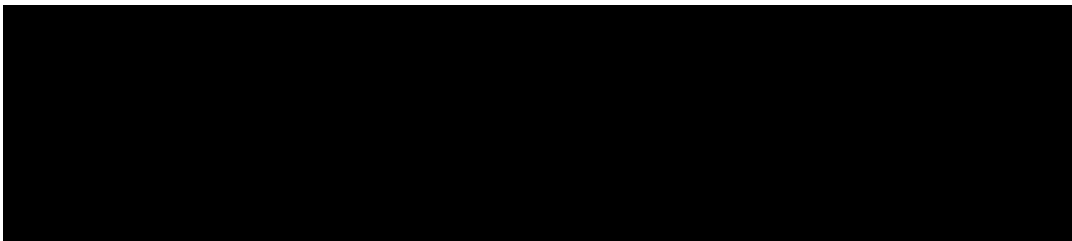
| GRADE | THANET | KENT | ENGLAND |
|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| AB | 15.88% | 22.42% | 22.96% |
| C1 | 29.38% | 31.89% | 30.92% |
| C2 | 23.59% | 22.46% | 20.64% |
| DE | 31.14% | 23.22% | 25.49% |

Earnings by place of residence (2020)

| | Thanet (Pounds) | South East (Pounds) | Great Britain (Pounds) |
|--|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gross Weekly Pay | | | |
| Full-Time Workers | 533.3 | 631.8 | 587.1 |
| Male Full-Time Workers | 575.5 | 683.7 | 622.9 |
| Female Full-Time Workers | 455.6 | 560.6 | 544.3 |
| Hourly Pay - Excluding Overtime | | | |
| Full-Time Workers | 13.06 | 16.24 | 15.18 |
| Male Full-Time Workers | 14.53 | 17.23 | 15.64 |
| Female Full-Time Workers | 12.31 | 14.94 | 14.42 |

Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - resident analysis

Notes: Median earnings in pounds for employees living in the area.



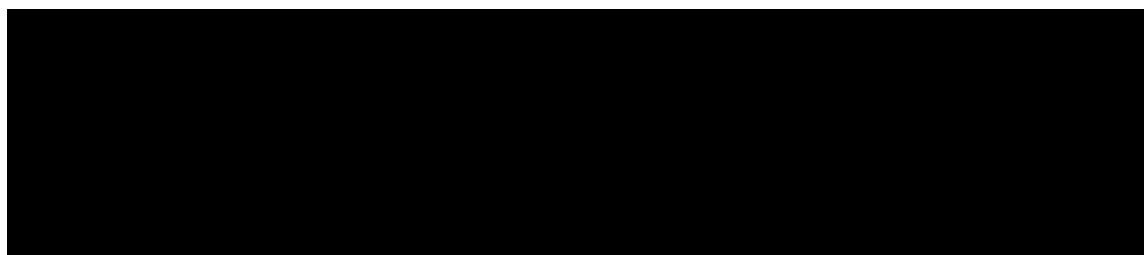
The Office of National Statistics have produced an interactive map⁸, showing the “Median gross weekly earnings by place of work, Great Britain, April 2015”. There may well be a more up to date version. It shows that for both full time and part time work the median weekly earnings in Thanet are **less than EVERY Red Wall district, as well as every district in Wales and Scotland.**

| | Thanet (Employee Jobs) | Thanet (%) | South East (%) | Great Britain (%) |
|--|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Total Employee Jobs | 42,000 | - | - | - |
| Full-Time | 26,000 | 61.9 | 66.8 | 67.8 |
| Part-Time | 16,000 | 38.1 | 33.2 | 32.2 |
| Employee Jobs By Industry | | | | |
| B : Mining And Quarrying | 0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| C : Manufacturing | 3,000 | 7.1 | 6.6 | 8.0 |
| D : Electricity, Gas, Steam And Air Conditioning Supply | 100 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| E : Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management And Remediation Activities | 350 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 |
| F : Construction | 2,250 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 4.9 |
| G : Wholesale And Retail Trade; Repair Of Motor Vehicles And Motorcycles | 8,000 | 19.0 | 16.4 | 15.0 |
| H : Transportation And Storage | 1,750 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 4.9 |
| I : Accommodation And Food Service Activities | 4,500 | 10.7 | 7.7 | 7.7 |
| J : Information And Communication | 800 | 1.9 | 5.7 | 4.3 |
| K : Financial And Insurance Activities | 700 | 1.7 | 2.7 | 3.5 |
| L : Real Estate Activities | 500 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.7 |
| M : Professional, Scientific And Technical Activities | 1,750 | 4.2 | 9.1 | 8.8 |
| N : Administrative And Support Service Activities | 1,500 | 3.6 | 8.4 | 8.9 |
| O : Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security | 1,250 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 4.4 |
| P : Education | 5,000 | 11.9 | 10.0 | 8.7 |
| Q : Human Health And Social Work Activities | 9,000 | 21.4 | 12.9 | 13.1 |
| R : Arts, Entertainment And Recreation | 1,250 | 3.0 | 2.3 | 2.5 |
| S : Other Service Activities | 800 | 1.9 | 2.4 | 2.0 |

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Thanet features very heavily in the 2019 English Indices of Deprivation¹⁰.

- Seven of the seventy-seven Thanet LSOAs (9%) featured in the top one thousand worst LSOAs in England. LSOA 006A (Beacon Road) is ranked 67, 001A (Cliftonville West) is ranked 117 and 001E (Margate Central) 139
- Eleven (14%) had an IMD Decile of 1
- Forty-four (57%) had an IMD Decile between 2 and 5
- Only one LSOA had an IMD Decile of 10; none had a Decile of 9
- So, 81% of Thanet LSOAs had an IMD Decile of 5 or less.



I said at the start of this response that I didn't want to get too bogged down in endless tables and graphs. All the information above is derived from ONS data; either direct from GOV.UK, ONS (via NOMIS), KCC or third parties. Some of the *ILiveHere.co.uk* data comes from the 2011 Census. They all paint a depressing picture of the economic ills on the Isle of Thanet; 65 miles from the Palace of Westminster.

There is plenty of evidence that airports attract jobs; indeed ARUP themselves published a report to this effect in 2016¹¹. There is no reason to believe that Manston Airport would buck the trend.

The Prime Minister has promised to “Level Up”. Of course, this brings to mind run down northern industrial towns and cities; many are in the so-called “Red Wall” constituencies. However, Thanet is as deprived as many of these areas and as shown above many of its residents are heavily dependent on part time, zero-hours gig economy work at minimum wage levels – the difference between the unemployment levels and the Universal Credit take-up numbers shows that many on UC are also in work. RSP are offering the chance to assist the Levelling Up process at effectively zero cost to the taxpayer. To use the Thanet vernacular; it's a No Brainer.

