

Sessions House
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ
Tel: 03000 415799
Date: 3 December 2021

MANSTON AIRPORT ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Dear Sir

In response to the above report: for consideration.

The report makes very little reference to the impact of the Airport development on the local economy vis a vis skills and employment, other than a reference to the local plan which expresses a desire to create 5,000 new jobs. (para 4, page 16, re Policy SP04))

As you will be aware Kent County Council's position regarding the development of a freight airport at Manston is one of neutrality:

The County Council's position (County Council meeting, 16 July 2015) is: *"That we the elected members of KCC wish it to be known that we fully support the continued regeneration of Manston and East Kent and will keep an open mind on whether that should be a business park or an airport, depending upon the viability of such plans and their ability to deliver significant economic growth and job opportunity."* This position is reiterated in the [Local Transport Plan 4: Delivering Growth without Gridlock 2016-2031](#) (LTP4) (p24).

However, in my position as Skills and Employer Manager at Kent County I would like to remind you that East Kent, particularly the Districts of Thanet and Dover, is an area of relatively high unemployment (particularly among young adults) and low skill/education levels, particularly for higher skills; with resulting pockets of significant deprivation. The attached tables are the most up to date information available for Unemployment and Skills.

Table 1: District Unemployment. Total unemployment and Youth (18-24) Unemployment.
Claimant Count, Sept 2021. [NOMIS]

	Sep-21			
	18-24		18-64	
Ashford	620	7.10%	3,490	4.50%
Canterbury	835	3.30%	3,870	3.70%
Dover	590	7.60%	3,420	4.90%
Folkestone &H	630	8.60%	3,600	5.50%
Thanet	1,100	11.40%	6,375	7.90%
Kent	8,010	6.70%	43,605	4.60%
UK	361,560	6.50%	2.079m	5.00%

TABLE 2: Skill Levels (declared highest education level)

% of Adult Population, 16-64, [ONS survey October 2020]

KCC Target		GB	SE	Kent	Dover	Thanet
40%	Level 4	43.1	45.1	40.7	39.4	26.5
60%	Level 3	61.3	63.8	59.2	59.6	52.8
80%	Level 2	78.1	80.5	78.5	82.1	71.7
	No Quals	6.4	5.8	7.8	#	9.2

From the perspective of unemployment, any development in this area of Kent would be very welcome and, of course, this would include the development of an Airport at Manston.

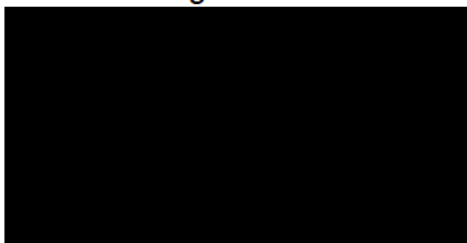
The establishment of an Airport would also contribute to the desired increase in skill levels in the local communities in several ways:

- in **training local people** in intermediate and higher skills (I understand that part of the Airport proposal included the creation of a skills centre);
- in providing **higher skill jobs**, thereby helping to retain young adults in the local economy;
- and **attracting people** with higher skills into the area.

Increasing education and skill levels, particularly to level 3 and above makes a significant impact on people's productivity, ability to earn, and security of employment. These contribute to reducing inequality and 'levelling up' deprived communities.

I hope that these benefits will be taken into consideration as part of the decision-making process.

Kind regards



Allan Baillie

Skills & Employability Manager, Kent County Council.

(Representing KCC on Manston Skills Group)