

From:



Subject:

FW: Manston Airport and Kent County Council Policies (22-0037)

Date:

07 April 2022 17:15:41

Dear Mr Lowe

Thank you for your email dated 16 January 2022. Please do accept my apologies for the protracted delay in responding.

In the interests of clarity and for completeness, the last relevant motion passed by the County Council at its meeting on 16 July 2015 states:

“RESOLVED 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”.

As you are aware, the County Council has consistently taken a position of neutrality throughout the Examination for the Order granting Development Consent for the reopening and development of Manston Airport in Kent. This was clearly set out in the response to Deadline 6 of the Examination, in which KCC stated that *‘for completeness and transparency, the County Council would like to make it clear that it has never offered its support in principle to the DCO application’*. The County Council continues to maintain this position and for the avoidance of doubt, has not subsequently formed any in principle position on the use of the Manston Airport site for aviation purposes.

The letter submitted by Mr Allan Baillie, Skills & Employability Manager at Kent County Council, relates very specifically and solely to matters associated within the remit of skills and employability and should not be misinterpreted as any form of change to the County Council's well-established position on the use of the Manston Airport site. I would also confirm that the representations that the County Council has made throughout the various consultation stages of the Examination remain highly pertinent.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely,



Roger Gough
Leader of Kent County Council

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24 hour helpline, call 03000 41 92 92 or visit: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/coronavirus#kenttogether>

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From: Chris Lowe [REDACTED] >
Sent: 16 January 2022 16:52
To: Roger Gough - MEM [REDACTED] Head of Paid Service - ST
[REDACTED] Stephanie Holt-Castle - GT GC <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Manston Airport <ManstonAirport@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Manston Airport and Kent County Council Policies

TO:
Roger Gough, Leader KCC [REDACTED]
David Cockburn, Head of Paid Service, KCC [REDACTED]
Stephanie Holt-Castle, [REDACTED]), Director for Growth,
Communities and Environment

Copy to: PINS ManstonAirport@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
For the attention of the Manston Airport Case Team”

Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Re-determination of the Application by RiverOak Strategic Partners Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the reopening and development of Manston Airport in Kent.

In the latest round of consultations for the proposed new Manston Air Freight Airport, a representation came from Mr Allan Baillie, Skills & Employability Manager, Kent County Council, representing KCC on Manston Skills Group.

See:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR020002/TR020002-006203-308%20-%20Kent%20County%20Council.pdf>

This might be taken as representing Kent County Council’s (KCC) position on the proposed airport, but this is in conflict with KCC’s previous Position Statement: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/transport-and-highways-policies/aviation/manston-airport-position-statement>

It also conflicts with the views of KCC’s representatives at the Examination into the proposals. For example, KCC raised a number of significant concerns regarding Highways & Transport, Heritage, Minerals & Waste, Biodiversity etc and reiterated the need for the Secretary of State to consider all previous KCC submissions. There was also concern about inadequate mitigation costs.

See, for example:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR020002/TR020002-005741-Kent%20County%20Council.pdf>

Hence Mr Allan Baillie, arguably undermines KCCs position and previous arguments, which is why I am bringing this to KCC's attention. I also query whether KCC were aware it was being submitted, and if it was approved.

As it is on KCC letter-headed paper and is listed on the PINs site as a submission by Kent County Council, it appears as a KCC document, as opposed to being from the individual or RSP.

If KCC is not aware of this or if it was sent without approval, please can you make this clear to the Secretary of State?

My understanding is that Mr Baillie's representation represents the Manston Skills & Employment Board, see:

<https://rsp.co.uk/news/manston-skills-employment-board-focuses-on-maximising-local-opportunities-from-airport-re-opening/>

The Board is actually part of the Applicant's efforts to promote a new airport, and therefore is not representative of KCC, but is really an Applicant representation.

As I do not know the timescale for considering the representations, I am also copying this to PINS to ensure that they are clear on this, and can raise queries, if necessary.

With best wishes,

Chris Lowe

Interested party: 20014275

