



For the attention of the Manston Airport Case Team

By email to: manstonairport@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

09 July 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to the Secretary of State's letter dated 11 June 2021, regarding the Statement of Matters for the 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 relation to the information sought at paragraph 2, the Council would draw the Secretary of State's attention to four matters that have changed since the relevant dates.

On 9 July 2020 (a few hours subsequent to the SoS Decision being issued), Thanet District Council adopted its new Local Plan, which contains the following policy (Policy SP07) in relation to Manston Airport:

Manston Airport as identified on the Policies Map is safeguarded for airport related uses. Whether or not the DCO is confirmed, the future use and development of Manston Airport and/or other policies affected by the outcome of the DCO process will be determined through the early review of the Plan.

On 11 July 2019, the Council declared a climate emergency. As part of this declaration, the Council resolved to:

- Do what is within our powers and resources to make Thanet District Council carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
- Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
- Continue to work with partners across the County and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies; and
- Investigate possible sources of external funding and match funding to support this.

The proposals for a new Thanet Parkway station at Cliffsend were approved and planning permission granted by Kent County Council on 2 September 2020. Since that time construction has started. This development will significantly improve rail connectivity in the area.

I would also like to draw your attention to the published data in relation to unemployment rates within Thanet, as shown in the table below. These figures show significant increases in local unemployment since 2019. In particular Thanet has the highest unemployment rate in Kent at 9.4% and for 18-24-year-olds the highest unemployment rate in the South East.

Unemployment/ rates	Total	Youth (18-24)
2017	2850 (3.5%)	650 (6.1%)
2018	4020 (4.9%)	795 (7.7%)
2019	4315 (5.3%)	855 (8.6%)
2020	8795 (10.8%)	1680 (17.4%)
2021	7615 (9.4%)	1485 (15.4%)

The Council would ask the Secretary of State to take these matters into account when re-determining this application.

Yours sincerely,



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Leader of Thanet District Council

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