

### Examination of the Thanet Local Plan

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Angela Schembri  
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140 London Wall  
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11.03.2019

Dear Ms Schembri,

#### Thanet Local Plan Examination

We write further to your letter dated 25 February 2019, in which you request that the local plan examination is suspended pending the outcome of the Manston Airport Development Consent Order ('DCO') application. Enclosed is a response from Thanet District Council confirming their view that there are no reasons to suspend proceedings at this stage. For the reasons set out below we agree.

It is appreciated that the local plan examination is running concurrently to the Manston Airport DCO. However, as advised in the *Inspectors' Guidance Note*<sup>1</sup>, the assessment of the DCO application is separate to our examination of the Local Plan's soundness. Hearing sessions will not be sitting at the same time, and the Council has confirmed that it has committed sufficient resources to both. The enclosed correspondence also confirms that the Council's Local Elections do not provide a reason to delay the examination.

In your letter you refer to the review mechanism included in the submitted Plan and advise that the approach taken to Manston Airport is critical to soundness. These issues have been identified in the *Inspectors' Matters, Issues and Questions*<sup>2</sup> and there will be an opportunity for representors to put their points forward at the forthcoming hearing sessions. At this stage it is not considered that an exploratory meeting, or pre-hearing meeting is required.

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<sup>1</sup> Examination Document CD8.3

<sup>2</sup> Examination Document CD8.4

We trust that this provides sufficient clarity to assist in your preparation for the examination hearing sessions.

Yours Sincerely,

*Matthew Birkinshaw* and *Victoria Lucas*

Inspectors

11 March 2019