

For the attention of Mr M. Brokenshire MP and Ms V. Lucas

Dear Sir/Madam,

Further to Thanet District Council's (TDC's) reply dated 11/01/19, to your letter to TDC dated 17/12/18, regarding the draft Local Plan currently being examined, I would like to comment on the TDC statement below:

"The Council rejected the proposed draft Plan in January 2018, featuring a freestanding new settlement on the airport site, on the basis that the site should not be allocated for development, leaving the site available for aviation use pending the outcome of the DCO process. This meant that there were two options for delivering the housing requirement considered by Cabinet in July 2018 - allocating a freestanding new settlement (at Manston); or finding alternative sites for the 2,500 homes.

The two options for delivering the housing requirement were assessed. Option 1 (to allocate a mixed use development on the airport site; assessed previously as Policy SP05 and in strikeout in the Environmental report (Appendix E))."

That appears to go against the report contents in which Inspector Nunn decreed on 13th July, 2017, the importance of existing Policy SP05, which incorporates Policy EC4, as Aviation Only on the Manston Airport site. He suggested that the 2 policies should bear "significant weight" in any future planning in Thanet and dismissed any appeals by Stone Hill Park/Lothian Shelf to change 4 aviation buildings to mixed use. Also, the 2,500 houses initially proposed by Stone Hill Park/Lothian Shelf for the airfield site, were considered by TDC to be an additional "windfall" and not part of the essential need for housing in Thanet.

I would therefore respectfully ask that the current DCO regarding the reopening of Manston Airport is seriously considered as a priority in any further examination of the new TDC Local Plan, rather than the airport being allowed to be put into the new Local Plan as almost an after-thought.

Below is a quote taken from Inspector Nunn's report and decision of 13/7/17, pages 11&12.

"51. I have taken into consideration the latest emerging local planning policy which proposes to re-designate the airport for mixed use development. However, the consultation process has only recently occurred and the emerging Plan is subject to various outstanding objections and its policies may change. In accordance with Paragraph 216 of the Framework, I find little weight can be given to the emerging policy.

52. Overall, I conclude that the appeal schemes would conflict with Policy EC4 of the Local Plan, as well as its wider economic development and regeneration objectives. The proposals would conflict with the Council's current approach to the location of new development within the airport, which is consistent with national policy. The benefits of the scheme put forward by the appellants do not justify departure from Policy EC4 of the Local Plan. Hence I find there are no material considerations of sufficient weight that would warrant a decision other than in accordance with the development plan. Accordingly, I conclude that the appeals should be dismissed.

Appeal Decisions APP/Z2260/W/15/3140990, 3140992, 3140994 & 3140995

Matthew C J Nunn  
INSPECTOR"

<https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewDocument.aspx?fileid=22381104>

Thank you for your time.

Yours faithfully,

Angela Stevens