

Manston Airport: Non-Aviation Focus Group Meeting Minutes

Date	5 th November 2019		
Location	The Oak Hotel, Ramsgate		
Project/Client	Manston Airport/ RiverOak Strategic Partners		
Purpose	RiverOak Strategic Partners and aviation specialist, Osprey Consulting Services held focus groups with non-aviation stakeholders in order to: 1. explain the process for developing proposals for Airspace Design and Procedures for Manston Airport 2. discuss and gather feedback from stakeholders on constraints that will be taken into account in producing Airspace Design Principles that will shape future proposals for airspace operations at Manston Airport 3. initiate a discussion and answer any questions from stakeholders regarding completing the questionnaire that was sent in advance to the focus group meeting.		

Afternoon Session 2 pm - 4pm

Attendees	- Canterbury City Council
	- Kent County Council
	- Minster Parish Council
	- Canterbury City Council
	- Sutton by Dover Parish Council
	- Langdon Parish Council
	- St Margaret's at Cliffe Parish Council
	- Manston Parish Council
	- Ash Parish Council
	- Thanet District Council
	- Thanet District Council
	- Thanet District Council
	- Clerk representing Chestfield, Barham, Westbere Parish
	Councils
	River Oak Strategic Partners
	- Osprey Consulting Services
	- Osprey Consulting Services
	- Copper Consultancy
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Westerly departures	Why only westerly departures to the North to reduce noise issues haven't been considered. Stated that no designs have been finalised and this is all open to the future consultation. He reminded the group that different options for which direction to go on departure have been explored. These were the worst case scenarios for the current Development Consent Order (DCO) application.	
Noise	A school in Ramsgate that has a noise monitor that recorded any noise over 90 decibels from planes that came into land at Manston. He stated that he finds it hard to believe that the noise levels won't be this high again. points out that the noise assessment was covered in the DCO and reminds the group that these probably would've been older planes that were considerably noisier.	
General Aviation	Not germane to design principles but at this stage in the process would you (RSP) discuss accommodating General Aviation (GA) confirms that GA (Sports & Recreation) will be taken into account to an extent, but flight procedures will be purely for commercial aviation.	
Noise	Is take-off noisier than landing. stated that take-off is considerably noisier, as more power is needed to take	

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	off, whereas during landing an aircraft will have a much lower power setting.	
Process	Not germane to design principles but why are there so many stages in the process and why isn't it easier to return Manston to a working airport. explained the airspace modernisation strategy has had an impact on the process, meaning that there are now more procedures to be followed and other elements that have to be taken into account. also explained that the movement from beacons to GPS/GNSS mean that all airports are going through some sort of airspace change process. reminded the group that if Manston had carried on operating as an airport it would still be going through some formal change process to modernise the airport operations at a similar time to now. discussed the Level 1 airspace change assessment from the CAA and asked if the group agreed with this assessment. There was no disagreement to this CAA provisional assessment.	
GPS Issues	The Cllr questions the reliability of GPS, stating that his experience as a navigator had made him aware of the issues that occur when multiple GPS systems interact. confirmed that Manston's procedures will be designed with great attention to detail incorporating ICAO compliant design requirements for GNSS guidance. Flight management systems will be able to integrate with these designs in a safe and expeditious manner.	
Issues with engagement	All the issues are trade-offs; but nobody knows the best combination. stated they're working on multiple airport projects and that they understand that each one is unique. There is no right answer and this is why they initially engage, as required by CAP1616, the specific communities to find their views.	
Issues with engagement	How are members of the community qualified to make such a big decision about flight paths. responded by stating that Manston wants to build schemes that are for the community. The communities should shape the design principles as long as their desires are realistic. The design is a balance, as previously discussed, between practicality and the community requirements; some might be contradictory, but that dynamic allows a degree of measurement in satisfaction of each design principle.	

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3 Options	Are only three options, urban, rural and over the sea? confirmed this and stated that all three offer a fair and valid design principle but are not mutually exclusive.	
Emissions	Flying the most direct route will help reduce emissions which is central to the current political climate. agreed, stating that it is a highly valid point but it is one of a range of factors that will influence a decision.	
Issues with engagement	Is the process is interested in her as an individual or a member of her parish council. Stated that the CAA is interested in people on the ground; you as a democratic representative of a parish. The public will be able to make comments in the future and during consultation on the CAA portal. The consultation at the end of next year will ensure that everyone has the opportunity to provide their thoughts.	
Consultation	asks to provide detail on what form the public consultation will take and what information will be provided to the public. stated that all of the focus group principles will be available in the consultation. All of the info, designs, environmental and economic assessments will be available on the website and CAA portal during consultation. There will be events and access through the CAA airspace change portal for the public to be involved. There will be plenty of chances to provide feedback.	
Consultation	Is the consultation for individuals or the council responded by stating it is for both and that consultation next year will provide everyone with the opportunity to give their view on the airspace project.	
	goes on to ask if the questionnaires are for the council. Confirms that today's questionnaire is for the council to provide feedback, but that they do encourage you to get input from your colleagues and the local community. We have identified the best point of contact for communities is the democratic representative councils. Communities agrees with this point about delegated powers and states that he will be having a Parish Council meeting to discuss where we go with this project.	
Community Support	Whilst not germane to design principles he has been worried about the nature of the support for the regeneration of Manston airport, as there are many people who are in favour of it but I think that the map showing the routes out of Manston will create backlash because it is not what they thought they were	

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	getting. We never had the noise issue before and this will upset local people. He stated that he understands that you are managing the air traffic levels but this is a significant expansion and if public support is important then I believe that Manston has started off in the wrong manner. reminded the group that it is important to remember that nothing has been finalised yet and this is a CAA process; this should be reiterated to communities. The worst case had to be assessed in the DCO application, but there may be better options, that satisfy local design principles.	
Consultation process	He is wary of the consultation process as they're only as good as the questions they ask. He said that he's concerned about that if you are answering the questionnaire in your own voice or on behalf of your community. The consultation could be distorted. It is difficult to get people to read the information and give their feedback. Stated that this is true and the CAA and DfT are aware of that. This is why we have this time for engagement before our larger consultation period. The Cllr further stated that as we (Councillors) represent their community and in his parishes case they took a majority vote that they were supporting the reopening of the airport. We can't speak to everyone, but this is how democracy works.	
Questionnaire distribution	Is the questionnaire restricted or can it be distributed? stated that questionnaires can be distributed within your council but it cannot be passed to other councils even if you are a member of both.	
Thames Wreck	Whilst not germane to design principles this is a remote objection but there is an explosive wreck in the Thames, if anyone uses this as an argument against Manston, they should remember it's much closer to Southend airport.	

Evening Session 7 pm - 9 pm



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Airfreight/ Passenger travel	Whilst not germane to design principles the Cllr questioned Osprey's mention of passenger travel. responded by stating if there's a demand later on then passenger travel may be an option. At the moment it's being developed purely as an air freight hub. Similarly, with executive travel, it will be driven by the market and the airlines themselves in consideration of such items as fuel prices and infrastructure links. He reminded the group that the current Development Consent Order (DCO) is based purely on an operational air freight hub.	
Amount of flights	stated that to start, around only one flight per day will be running, building up to four to eight movements per hour much further down the project timeline. The Cllr then asked if this is mirrored at Southend airport. responds by stating Southend's a bit different as they have a short runway, so there's no freight there. People questioned why EasyJet went there, and the answer is because if you run an EasyJet or Ryanair, you need to get your planes in the air by 7 am. There are no more slots at the main London airports at those times, so they went to Southend to get the planes in the air. Assuming Ryanair sort out the problems with the 737 max, they will have additional aircraft in the next few years. We are pretty confident we will get two, three or four. I think they will fly to Southern Europe mostly, plus places like Edinburgh, Dublin and Stockholm. They quite like these short sectors to Scandinavian countries because you can turn the flight around quickly.	
Movements cap	responds by saying there's a total cap of 25,000 which divides to 18,000 cargo movements and about 7,000 passenger movements. If we ever wanted to go beyond that, we would have to go back to the Secretary of State and have another DCO. As a comparator, Heathrow is 400-500,000. We're keen to have a passenger service if we can, but don't want another Heathrow.	Unconfirmed
General Aviation	The Cllr stated that historically there were some small planes included, such as two-seaters and asks if this is still a likelihood. responded by stating that it is and that they've promised TG Aviation that they can return, and we'd like them to come back. He goes onto say most international airports don't like General Aviation	

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	(GA) Sports & Recreation (S&R) because they get in the way. But we'll only have six or eight movements an hour, which gives you plenty of scope for GA(S&R). If you've got 40 movements an hour you just can't fit in GA. An unconfirmed speaker asked if this would eat into the	
	cap, to which responded by stating that this isn't the case as the cap is only for commercial aircraft.	
ATZ vs controlled airspace	Asks Osprey to explain the difference between Aerodrome Traffic Zones (ATZ) and Controlled Airspace (CAS). stated that the ATZ is an area where the air traffic service provider has a measure of control over the aircraft that enter that zone. Also, an obligation of the aircraft operator is that before they enter that zone, they must call the air traffic services. CAS is different, in that there are more full, rigid regulations on how aircraft operate in, and how they are allowed into that airspace. This is in terms of the equipment they carry, the types of radio and the interactions they have with the airspace. So it can have a restriction on how some operators use the airspace. Some operators, especially the GA(S&R), see it as a brick wall.	
Runways	The Cllr Rowley asked if there are one or two runways. Richie Hinchcliffe confirmed that Manston has one runway strip that has two ends; thus two directions of use, the westerly runway is known as 28, and runway 10 is the easterly runway.	
Westerly departures/ landings	The Cllr asked about take-off and landing. confirmed that they would see 76-78% of movements leaving to and arring from the wester; but that's weather and traffic density dependent at the time. This will be operationally managed by air traffic control at the time.	
Westerly departures/ landings	The Cllr asked if in low winds, the landing would be from the west and the take-off would be to the west? confirms this and states that in low wind, gentle breeze conditions the airport would prioritise arrival from, and departure to, the west.	
	The Cllr asked if this is able to be done due to the number of movements, which confirmed and	

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	stated that the amount of airport movements would provide time and space to manage this process.	
Wind speed	The Cllr asked what is considered a low wind speed which confirmed as a 10 Knots component along the runway (which is roughly 12mph).	
TMA	The Cllr asked what the TMA is? stated that it stands for Terminal Manoeuvring Area. The London Terminal Manoeuvring Area will be reconfigured to the demands of the UK's Airspace Modernisation Strategy. At the moment it is a capacity constraint for London's airports and is inefficient, and the technology we have available is not fully utilised. We will take advantage from these changes that the previous airport couldn't because in the vpast it didn't have the technology available.	
Worst/best-case scenarios	The Cllr asked what the difference is between a worst and best-case scenario. Stated that it depends on the options we have available. We may have options on how you distribute the aircraft once they're off the runway, and when they are landing.	
Herne Bay	The Cllr pointed out that Herne Bay is an issue and asks if you can avoid overflying Herne Bay. stated that the height of the aircraft in that area, take-off and landing will be around 3,000-4,000 feet. But it's an option to look at how you feed aircraft in at that point. He reminded the group that that was a worst-case scenario for the DCO process.	
Runway	The Cllr questioned as to why planes can't turn-in nearer the end of the runway. stated we might be able to when we get down further into detailed design. We have got nothing down on paper about these procedures at the moment. This was a worst-case assessment that had to be done for the DCO process, and we there might be option changes when in the final designs.	
Reporting Points	The Cllr questioned what meant when he previously mentioned points explained that a point, or 'reporting point', is like a road junction in the airspace. There are motorways, side roads and streets in the sky, and we call the junctions 'reporting points'. It's a map of interlinking navigation points, and it's how the air traffic manager and flight management system route or fly the plane. In terms of systemisation, those points are flexing as we modernise the airspace. When we start to	

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	design the procedures for the airport, we'll have to meld into these three-dimensional points in space. They may define how we take departures from, and arrivals into, the airport – it's not simply the airport's own demand.	
Herne Bay	went back to a previous point about Herne Bay, stating the aircraft have to be lined up. They need a long run in, as 3 to 4 miles is just too short for the pilot of a large commercial aircraft to get it configured for landing. The way you offset that is to set them higher, and Herne Bay is about 8 miles from the end of the airport's runway—which is about the standard approach length. That impacts where the planes will be, as the further out they are, the higher they can start. If they start west of Herne Bay, they could be at 4000 feet and have a gentle descent with low engine power in the descent to the runway due to the pull of gravity. These considerations will inform the options we take forward. The Cllr questioned this, and asked if Manston previously had this 8-mile lead-in	
Turning	If you're taking off at an easterly direction, you can't turn before you get to Ramsgate? confirmed that this is correct and stated that this is why taking off to and landing from, the west (in noise preferential runway direction) becomes more desirable as an operational consideration.	Unconfirmed
Aircraft use	asked what sort of vehicles might be in use. stated that in terms of freighters, we will be looking at 777 and 747 size aircraft. The Cllr provided reasoning for his question, stating that he used to live in Herne Bay when KLM operated from the airport, and he never noticed it, he also lived in Herne Bay when they were running the 747s and he did notice them.	

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	states that there will be big freighters, but not the 747 200s. And reminded the group even if old airframes are used they would possibly have more modern engines which are quieter.	
	The Cllr asked if this is an attempt to dispel the fear of the great black lines behind the planes. said that might be the case for engine manufacturers as aeroplanes leaving behind fumes doesn't present a good image of environmental care.	
	The Cllr went onto say that the last time we had 747s they trail of smoke. If that happens again, that would be a fairly considerable failure from everyone involved. reminded the group that Manston would be perating more modern aircraft, so I can only say that it is unlikely to happen. The CAA and manufacturers are looking into how engines operate and emmissions can be reduced.	
Decision making	The Cllr asked about how the decisions of height, angle of approach and how turns are made. responded by stating that you can provide us with ideas on design principles that would address some of the issues you're concerned about, and then design options will be considered. The Cllr then asked who makes the final decision on	
	procedures; to which responded stating that the decision lies with the CAA.	
Turning after take off	The Cllr asked if there is a turn after take-off. confirmed that there is a principle discussion on aircraft turning, where and potential airspace reporting point constraints with regard to the immediate and subsequent direction of travel.	
Gateway questions	The Cllr questioned the term gateway. confirmed that this is project management term and is defined in the CAP1616 process and is a formal decision event made by the CAA in relarion to the Manston airspace change.	
Gateway questions	asked what the CAA will be looking at to get to the gateway. Confirmed the CAA (in this Stage of the process) will be looking at the design principles that have been pulled out of the stakeholder	

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	engagement, the questionnaire responses and how the design principles have been justified.	
	then asked what would make the gateway fail. To which responded if we haven't listed or reflected your thoughts in the design principles.	
Gateway questions	The Cllr asked if each gateway is effectively a CAA audit of the programme which confirmed.	
Gateway questions	The Cllr asked why the process takes so long. To which stated that the CAA suffers resource constraints similar to government department, this question might be directed at the CAA or DfT.	
Airspace Change Assessment	discussed the Level 1 airspace change assessment from the CAA and asked if the group agreed with this assessment. states that he agreed with it because the impact	
	is high, particularly on some of the take-off trajectories.	
Council attendees	The Cllr asked if the other councils attended the focus group meetings; to which confirmed there were 13 attendees in the afternoon sessions including councillors.	
FMS	The Cllr asked what the technical name for the autopilot to which answered that it is called the FMS (Flight Management System).	
Overflying Ramsgate	The Cllr stated that it's fairly obvious that Ramsgate would want as little overflying as it can and asks how he can express this. stated that it comes down to safety. With a firm westerly wind (blowing from the west) and aircraft using runway 28, it's very difficult to mitigate that element, approach, of the aircraft flightpath. In a strong wind from the east you'd still have to have departure path to the east. That's an operational aspect that will be influenced by weather conditions at the time explained. In not providing procedures to, or from, the east it would mean that an aircraft coming in with those wind conditions would have to divert to another airport.	
	The Cllr stated that he accepts this but that aircraft wouldn't have to take off under those conditions to which responds that then you have aircraft grounded, missing their slots, with passengers sat on board waiting for the wind directions to change. The same with	

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	explained the point is you couldn't have that as a design principle, as there are so many related operational variables/requirements However, you can put that in as part of your consultation response.	
	The Cllr stated that his main point is that the ideal situation for Ramsgate would be no overflying at all and it looks like that could be achieved around 78% of the time depending on weather conditions, which leaves 22% of the time. What he 'is suggesting was that aircraft don't have to fly during that 22% when weather conditions aren't favourable and asks what is the best way to suggest this in our feedback?' responds by stating that in design principle terms, it would be "I don't want a procedure design that goes over Ramsgate".	
	responded by stating that this could mean you could have several 747s waiting for the wind to change to take off. And you can't run a commercial operation like that, and no one would fly to the airport. However, it could be suggested that the airport to have high levels of operating technology and process to ensure every aircraft that can safely land from the west and take off to the west does so. The problem in the past was that some captains opted to take-off and land from the east when they didn't have to. We are all for overriding and forbidding that.	
	then stated that the airport would obviously look to introduce procedures that minimise air traffic over Ramsgate. There may be design options to partially avoid it, but the designs and procedures for both ends of the runway have to be there.	
	"We will need compensating measures to the west, as if 78% of flights are going towards Herne Bay, we will need to make sure they can achieve greater heights and bank sooner."	Unconfirmed speaker
	The Cllr said the equal and opposite point to the previous speaker, who doesn't want flights going over Ramsgate, so all those flights will go west and south and come over our areas. He says that as much as he hears him, he doesn't agree with him.	

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	explained that design principles give us a measure to evaluate our designs. It is rare, given competing demands of routing and environmental impact that a potential design satisfies all principles. We may not be able to satisfy every principle but can try.	Osprey
El-i	A Cllr stated that there needs to be a middle ground.	
Flying over Ramsgate	The Cllr asked if it is possible to stop pilots flying over Ramsgate when it's not necessary? explained that you can bring in airport sanctions, preferential runway systems and airlines will be cooperative because they thrive on reputation. So anyone not applying the correct procedures could have sanctions imposed.	
Turbulence	The Cllr asked if turbulence is not such a problem anymore to which explain that it isn't.	
Height	The Cllr asked what height will the planes come in over Ramsgate to which replied it will be between 700 and 500 feet, depending on which part of Ramsgate. The Cllr asked about Herne Bay to which replied that it would be 3,000 to 4,000 feet and on departures more than that. The Cllr also asked about Woodnesborough to which inform him it will be between 7,000 to 10,000 feet. A Cllr asked if these heights can be 'nailed'; to which replied that it can't be specified at the moment as there's no procedure designed. That's why we go back to the principles. The heights are intuitive from experience, and can't be known precisely until procedure design commences after the engagement and through the CAP1616 process.	
	The Cllr asked if there will be a big impact on Ramsgate through noise and disturbance to which stated that they want aircraft to be up and away safely, and as soon as possible to minimise disturbance.	
Kent County Council	The Cllr asked if Kent County Council (KCC) have been involved to which said that KCC sent a representative to the afternoon session. The Cllr stated that Thanet, Canterbury and Dover should also be at all of these and that they can apply upward pressure in regard to this.	

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	explained that we can now define flight procedure flightpaths more accurately because of satellite navigation and the aircraft onboard equipment, you can have a route and say as a design principle do I want that route to be concentrated or be spread.	Osprey
Ramsgate	The Cllr pointed out that dispersion might be preferable as where houses are more separate so you might hear one flight a day but that you won't have much of a say if you live in Ramsgate, as you're so close to the runway.	
Lining out at Ramsgate	The Cllr stated that in Ramsgate, we'd like the aircraft to be lined up further out to sea than they were previously. It used to come along the beach and then turn into the airport. As a design principle, we want the planes lined up further out to sea.	
	The Cllr asked if there is a difference in the sound profile between urban and rural which explained that weather, land topography and the built environment does affect the way in which sound propagates.	
Landing at Minster end	The Cllr asked if everything is coming in from the west (the Minster end of the runway) what's the noise impact when hitting the ground. Explained why a landing aeroplane is a lot quieter than one taking off due to engine power setting and operational processes (management) can be used safely by the airport to manage the effects of thrust-reverse (speed retard) on landing.	
Not using the whole runway	The Cllr asked what scope there is for not using the whole length of the runway (furthest away from Ramsgate) and explained that not landing close to the threshold on the runway introduces risk to the aircraft as the runway available to stop along is reduced introducing safety reasons why this can't be done consistently.	
Climbing quickly	The Cllr stated that he understands that it's possible for aircraft to climb quickly after take-off, in terms of proximity to Ramsgate can they climb quicker?	
	explained that this is possible but there are limits, and you have to take into account that this increases fuel burn which increases cost and is environmentally damaging. Steeper climbs also require greater power which produces greater engine noise. There is a balance between noise and fuel. then highlighted that this could be a design principle, that when	

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	possible aircraft should get away from Ramsgate as soon as possible.	
Principle	The Cllr 'seconded the motion' put by the previous speaker about turning out to sea as soon as possible and states that this is a good idea and should be a design principle.	
Wheels down	The Cllr asked usually where do wheels come down to which informed him that it is around the 5-nautical mile range.	
Previous experience	The Cllr stated that his previous experience of aircraft arriving from the east made it seem like wheels came down over the harbour to which responded that this is surprising and would be quite late to put down the landing gear, but it may have happened once or twice (military airraft) but is unlikely to have happened regularly.	
Ground Traffic	The Cllr stated that nothing has been mentioned in regard to ground traffic to which explained that this isn't a subject for discussion at this focus group as the group is considering airspace procedure design principles and ground traffic (and associated noise) was assessed previously in the current DCO application.	
Consultation evidence	The Cllr asked if all the evidence from the DCO consultation is available to which explained it is all available on the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Website.	
Consultation process	The Cllr stated that examination and consultations were not communicated to his parish council to which explains that it was a very large, well-advertised consultation process.	
Other requirements	The Cllr asked what are other consultations or requirements to get permits for Manston, other than DCO and CAP1616 to which explained that the other one is the Aerodrome certification piece, about how the airport operates, its operational licenses, but that isn't a consultation.	
Questionnaires	The Cllr asked if all questionnaires go to CAA to which confirmed they are reviewed by the CAA.	
CAA	The Cllr asked if Manston presents a preferred route to the CAA. stated a number of preferred options are presented, with rationales, the CAA then assess which is the best option to meet environmental and design principles.	
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North/South	The Cllr asked if the airport knows where these proposed flight paths are going head, do you have an idea what goes north or south or is it down to the other factors? explained that this would be dependent on the defined en-route reporting points.	
	pointed out that the only givens are the runway which exists and nothing can change this as well as the infrastructure in the sky. We've not come here with preconceived ideas in our head as this would go against the whole point of the consultation.	
Operation size	The Cllr asked if the airport operation be larger than before. Presponded that it will be, but not as large as Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted and there will be more seasonal flights and it will be modern. The aim is to transform it into a modern cargo hub with a maximum of 25,000 commercial movements per annum.	
New Infrastructure	The Cllr asked if the runway is the only thing that stays from the previous infrastructure or will everything be new. confirmed there will be new buildings, new parking etc and stated that this is all on the PINS website as part of the current DCO application.	
Q/A's	The Cllr asked what will be done with the answers given in the questionnaire to which responded that these will be recorded to define the design principles which then inform the procedure designs which are then available for full consultation with the wider community later next year in the consultation phase. This engagement element is fed back to CAA and will inform consultations, this is only to frame the initial ideas/principles.	
Airport cancellation	The Cllr asked if there is any scenario that leads to this simply not happening? replies stating no, only if the aviation industry is curtailed but that's highly unlikely. There's a chronic capacity shortage in the area and this is why the airport is needed.	
	The Cllr then asked if the consultation is anything more than nuance and if he's wasting his time filling these questionnaires. He stated that he needs to understand the scope of consultation and if the DCO goes ahead then anything after that is just a nuance? stated that it's not and there are definite things you can change using the principles. You can't	

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	change the operational aspects; this was the subject of the very long two-year DCO process.	
DCO decision	The Cllr asked if the DCO decision is simply yes or no decision or can it be nuanced? explained that this is pure speculation and that the PINS inspectors have written the report and it's on the Secretary of State's (SoS) desk. The advice he's had is that the SoS can make small changes, but can't make major changes without reopening the DCO process. He stated that he thinks the likeliest outcome is that the SoS will give consent. The Cllr then asked if the SoS can give consent but with 20% fewer movements for example to which replied "no", and explained any major changes like this would require further planning consultation. He confirmed that the SoS can ask further questions.	

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