

APP/L2250/V/10/2131934 & APP/L2250/V/10/2131936

SECTION 77 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 – REFERENCE OF APPLICATIONS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (INQUIRIES PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) RULES 2000

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE TO INQUIRY ON KENT RAIL SERVICES

In respect of:

Planning Application Reference: Y06/1647/SH (New Terminal Building)

Planning Application Reference: Y06/1648/SH (Runway Extension)

Relating to land at London Ashford Airport, Lydd, Romney Marsh, Kent, TN29 9QL

Supplementary Note to Public Inquiry

Further Information on Kent Rail Services

Introduction

- 1.1 This note has been produced in response to comments made in both the Cross-Examination of Mr. Keith Sowerby by Mr Knox-Johnson and the Evidence-in-Chief of Mr. Gareth Thomas with regards to rail services to Kent.
- 1.2 Kent is served by train routes operated by Eurostar and Southeastern trains. Eurostar services operate on a high speed line (HS1) between St Pancras and mainland Europe via the Channel Tunnel. Southeastern also operates high speed domestic services utilising HS1 to stations in Kent. These services are explained below.
- 1.3 Reference was also made in cross-examination to proposals for a Thanet Parkway station to serve Manston Airport and this proposal is also dealt with below.

Eurostar Services

- 1.4 Eurostar services operate on HS1 between London St Pancras and the Channel Tunnel. Services currently operate to Paris and Brussels with a summer service to Avignon. From 2013, Deutsche Bahn is proposing to operate services to other destinations, including Frankfurt and Amsterdam.
- 1.5 Services currently stop on the English side of the Channel at Ebbsfleet and Ashford International stations. The current timetable shows that five weekday Paris-bound trains stop at Ebbsfleet and three stop at Ashford International. Four Brussels-bound trains stop at Ebbsfleet and one at Ashford International.

Highspeed Services

- 1.6 Southeastern operates the Highspeed service on to several destinations in Kent. Services use HS1 between London St Pancras and Ashford International and conventional lines elsewhere.
- 1.7 Highspeed provides two services per hour to Ashford International from London St Pancras with a typical journey time of 38 minutes. Services stop at Stratford and Ebbsfleet on-route.
- 1.8 The nearest rail station to Manston Airport is Ramsgate, which is served by one Highspeed service per hour. The typical journey time from London St Pancras is 1 hour 17 minutes.

Thanet Parkway

- 1.9 The Manston Airport masterplan includes proposals for a new station between Minster and Ramsgate to serve the airport, known as Thanet Parkway. It also refers to a rail link to the airport.
- 1.10 Kent County Council is supportive of a Thanet Parkway station and has included the proposal in its Local Transport Plan (LTP3) for the period 2011 to 2016. KCC made a bid to

the Regional Growth Fund in January 2011 for £10 million towards the construction of a Thanet Parkway station at Cliffsend west of Ramsgate. The bid was unsuccessful.

- 1.11 KCC has also considered the extension of Highspeed services east of Ashford on a new line, including links to Manston Airport but is not taking these proposals forward on grounds of cost.