

NEWS RELEASE



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Manston unveils final Master Plan

The vision for the future use of Kent International Airport at Manston has been laid out in its Master Plan, the final version of which has now been presented to stakeholders by the airport operator.

In line with DfT guidance, the airport produced a draft Master Plan in October 2008, which was released for widespread consultation. The airport's planning team has now consolidated the responses it received, which included more than 400 submissions from members of the public via various means. This feedback has been considered and incorporated into the final document where appropriate.

The Master Plan, which will be reviewed every five years, is now available on the airport website (www.kia-m.com).

Matt Clarke, Chief Executive of Kent International, said: "For the first time in its long history the airport now has a clear blueprint for the future. I thank those who contributed to our consultation process as we are grateful for the feedback we received. The Master Plan is the product of a great deal of hard work and now takes account of the submissions made by the many and varied stakeholders interested in this pivotal facility.

"We are very pleased to present our plan which will serve to communicate the shape of things to come. Our plan defines our commitment to the development of air services in

Thanet, Kent and the wider South East and details how we intend to develop the Manston site into a thriving regional airport.

During the Master Plan consultation process, Kent International's management gave presentations to stakeholder groups and held drop-in sessions in the airport terminal. These sessions gave people the opportunity to gain additional information and to register their feedback. Responses were also gathered via a web survey, by letters and emails, and at meetings held in the local area.

One difference between the draft and final Master Plan documents is that growth forecasts have been revised to reflect the impact of the global financial crisis and associated recession. The short-term contraction in aviation markets has had the effect of deferring growth expectations, with medium and long term forecasts remaining consistent with the growth anticipated in the draft Master Plan. The airport operator is now forecasting 2.2 million passengers in 2018 (2.7 million predicted in the draft) and 4.7 million in 2033 (5.7 million in the draft).

Mr Clarke commented: "Like most businesses in the UK aviation marketplace our business has felt the impact of the recession. Our air cargo business has proved itself to be resilient but the recent market activity has delayed our plans for passenger service expansion in 2009.

"We do not expect medium or long-term growth in demand to be affected by the current economic climate, but the milestones contained in the Master Plan have been pushed out to account for the impact of the recession on the first few years of our forecasts. The revised figures are realistic and attainable within the Master Plan period."

Other changes from the draft Master Plan include: transport links section updated to include final High Speed 1 train travel times; formal approval of £90M East Kent Access highway improvements; superseding of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan with the South East Plan along with other regulatory changes; updated development plans; clear tables highlighting volume triggers for individual developments and any associated planning applications; the insertion of an environmental controls section.