

London Luton Airport Expansion

Buckinghamshire Council Relevant Representations- Summary

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1 Introduction

- 1.1.1. This document sets out a summary of the Relevant Representations by Buckinghamshire Council (the Council) relating to the London Luton Airport Expansion Development Consent Order.

2 Topics

2.1. Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases

- 2.1.1. The Council raises doubts about the accuracy of greenhouse gas predictions, requesting sensitivity analyses due to uncertainties over advancements in aviation technology. A future assessment for decommissioning is also proposed as a requirement.

2.2. Transport and Highways

- 2.2.1. The Council recognises that the highway network in Aylesbury is a route hub for all directions, specifically the large catchment to the west of the airport. As a result, the Council seeks agreement for highway mitigation works at the junction of the B488 and B489 in Ivinghoe as well as restoration of local bus services connecting the airport with points further West, improving public transport links.
- 2.2.2. The information provided on spoil deliveries is insufficient to determine whether Buckinghamshire will be impacted. Moreover, a robust Construction Traffic Management Plan will be required, which should include measures that protect rural routes from impacts.
- 2.2.3. Notwithstanding the above the Council reserves any further comments on the strategic model outputs until updated modelling and assessment has been undertaken.

2.3. Noise and Vibration

- 2.3.1. The Council considers that an increase in operational air noise may be noticed by some Buckinghamshire residents.
- 2.3.2. The applicant proposes to use a “Noise Envelope” to control the expansion and as part of the Green Controlled Growth (GCG) principle which will only be effective if the body managing it is truly independent and includes the Council as a party to the Environmental Scrutiny Group (ESG).
- 2.3.3. The Council will resist any changes which have a permanent significant noise effect on the Chilterns AONB, supported by national guidance which outlines that airspace routes below 7,000 feet should seek to avoid flying over AONBs and National Parks.

2.4. Air Quality

- 2.4.1. The Council awaits the conclusions from the updated air quality review before accepting that the new traffic data will not have an impact on the air quality assessment or accepting the conclusions of the ES in relation to air quality.
- 2.4.2. The Council recommends that the automatic monitoring station is inspected to understand why this pollutant is no longer being measured as the data could prove to be important to understanding the impact the proposed development may have on the local air quality.
- 2.4.3. It is highlighted that public transport to Luton Airport from towns and villages within Buckinghamshire could be significantly improved and that the Green Controlled Growth Framework will only be effective if the body managing it is truly independent and includes the Council as a party to the ESG.

2.5. Economy, Tourism and Employment

- 2.5.1. The Council considers it vital that accessibility to the airport is addressed. At present there are no realistic public transport connections between Buckinghamshire and Luton Airport which could be utilised by potential employees of the airport, undermining the aims of the Employment and Training Strategy.

2.6. Landscape and Visual

- 2.6.1. The Council considers it unclear from the submitted LVIA as to which parts of the Chilterns AONB and wider Buckinghamshire are anticipated to be affected and it is ambiguous as to the potential effects on locations such as Ivinghoe Beacon regarding impacts on tranquillity.
- 2.6.2. The impact of individual flight noise upon the tranquillity of the Chilterns AONB needs to be fully assessed and the applicant should identify the extent of any lighting impacts on that area of the Chilterns AONB within Buckinghamshire.

2.7. Heritage

- 2.7.1. In view of the Council's comments regarding noise and the uncertainty over how changes to airspace could impact its communities the Council reserves its judgement on the associated impacts on its heritage assets and the historic value of the Chilterns AONB.

2.8. Health and Community

- 2.8.1. Given that the conclusions of the health and community assessment are based upon the findings of other topic assessments the Council reserves its judgement on the conclusions the Health and Community chapter, until such time that matters relating to the other relevant chapters are addressed.

2.9. Draft Development Consent Order

- 2.9.1. The Council seeks revisions, highlighting concerns regarding insufficient consultation, involvement in the ESG, and ambiguity regarding consultee involvement.

2.10. Airspace Changes

- 2.10.1. The Council expresses concern about airspace changes and potential impacts on the region due to redesign, highlighting the need for a comprehensive approach that considers the broader context.