



Councillor [REDACTED]
Leader of the Conservative Group
Member of North Hertfordshire District
Council for Codicote and Kimpton

Council Offices | Gernon Road
Letchworth Garden City
Hertfordshire | SG6 3JF
Email: [REDACTED]@north-herts.gov.uk
Telephone: 01462 474000 (Switchboard)

The Rt. Hon. Louise Haigh MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minister House | 33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

The Rt. Hon. Angela Rayner MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Fry Building | 2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

8 August 2024

Dear Secretaries of State,

Proposed Expansion of London Luton Airport

I am writing to ask that you refuse the application to grant London Luton Airport (LLA) a Development Consent Order (DCO) which would enable the airport to increase passenger capacity from its current permitted cap of 18 million per annum to 32 million per annum, including the construction of a new passenger terminal, aircraft stands and taxiways.

It is my firm belief, and the belief of many in North Hertfordshire that granting permission for LLA to expand will have a wholly negative impact on our communities.

As I am sure you are aware LLA has seen significant growth in recent years. In 2010, just under 9 million passengers used the Airport whereas in 2019, over 18 million passengers travelled using LLA, representing an increase of over 108% which was envisaged to occur in 2028 and yet has been surpassed.

The expansion to the current passenger cap was not properly managed or scrutinised by LLA. To my mind if a DCO is granted, LLA will fail, as it previously has done, to deliver balanced and sustainable growth as it increases capacity by nearly 78%, and it will ultimately be communities in Hertfordshire who suffer as a result of this unsustainable growth.

This proposal would lead to an extra 40,000 passenger journeys per day and with 63% of passengers currently travelling to LLA via car, this would only seek to exacerbate traffic congestion on major arterial routes such as the M1, A1(M) and A505. As a result of the increase in traffic, more vehicles would be forced to use the country lanes many residents in rural North Herts rely on in order to go about their day to day business, which are already congested at peak hours and are fundamentally ill-suited to an increase in traffic.

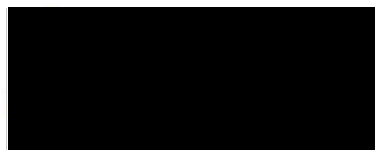
Many residents who live in the South West corner of North Herts which includes Kimpton, Peters Green and Blackmore End, rely on Thameslink Services from Harpenden Station in order to commute into London. In recent years, the number of trains serving the town has been cut, and under the current proposals an additional 6800 passenger journeys would be made to the airport via rail, adding to already crowded Thameslink Services which often have standing room only.

LLA has routinely broken its noise contour planning limits, and with the Airport being owned by Luton Borough Council, the Council has no incentive to enforce breaches of noise regulations. This issue is one that has existed for a number of years, with the Airport breaching noise limits for three consecutive years up to 2019 and I would argue, highlights the complete disregard LLA shows for the residents and communities that are impacted by its Operations, something unlikely to change should expansion be approved.

Allowing LLA to expand would not only amplify the noise coming from Airport Operations, but would lead to an increase in air pollution and harm to the environment, directly caused by the increased number of aircraft, trains and cars using the Airport should expansion be allowed to take place.

I strongly urge you to reject the proposal from London Luton Airport to increase its passenger cap to 32 million per annum, which not only is wholly unnecessary and completely unsustainable but would have a significant negative impact on the residents of North Hertfordshire.

Yours sincerely,



CLLR 

**LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP
MEMBER OF NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
FOR CODICOTE AND KIMPTON**

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