

FoE Response to Government Call-in of Planning Application 21/00031/VARCON
by London Luton Airport Operations Ltd (LLAOL) to expand from 18 to 19m passengers

Why we must not expand the airport - 8 reasons to refuse the application

1 Climate emergency – drought, fires, floods and hurricanes. Life-support breaking down. Fossil fuel addiction taking us to 3 degrees. Young people are frightened and angry. The UN, David Attenborough, the Queen & Greta urge us to listen to the scientists. We can't put things off or make the wrong choices. The next 10 years are crucial. In that time there will be no large commercial planes that don't rely on fossil fuels that wreck our thin atmosphere.

2 The Govt's 6th Carbon Budget requires emission cuts by 78% by 2035. Its Climate Committee said 'no airport growth anywhere'. (para 94 of report)

As climate effects worsen, rules will strengthen. This report is in denial that we all have to play our part in urgently tackling the climate crisis. Going back to pre-Covid levels and more expansion is suicidal.

3 Govt loaned Luton Council £35m this year on condition that it reduce reliance on the airport

Over-reliance on the airport has been a big problem. The Local Govt Association says Thousands of green jobs could be created in Luton by 2030. We can start with the 5 ADEPT priorities.

4 Govt said in Apr 2021 that Aviation & Shipping impacts must be included in all proposals and council climate plans. (para 94) Climate doesn't care about economics. We need to follow Norway. Every financial decision must consider & reduce carbon impact. To get transport, buildings, waste & food to carbon neutral in a big town is a huge task we must take seriously. Airport expansion conflicts with all that, wiping out good actions. Sending freight by plane causes the most emissions.

We must do nothing to make climate impacts worse, especially in poor countries, where many in Luton have relatives.

5 You're asked to approve expansion with an Out of date Masterplan and No Carbon Reduction strategy. "Local plan policy LLP6 B(iii) says airport expansion will only be supported with an up to date Airport Master Plan. (para 141 iii) Neither the masterplan, or 'Carbon Reduction Plan' give actions & targets for tackling emissions from planes & traffic. We're told there'll be a Carbon Reduction Strategy in 12 months. You're asked to vote that it's possible to avoid, reduce & remedy bad environmental impacts of expansion. It is NOT POSSIBLE. You're asked to misinterpret National Planning Policy Framework and exclude an

assessment of Greenhouse emissions from flights and traffic to protect society and the environment. National Policy NPPF paragraph 148 requires action to drive 'radical reductions' in carbon dioxide emissions.

You're asked to approve expansion with no Carbon Reduction Strategy. You can't kick the can down the road. Government says expansion of any airport must meet climate change obligations to be able to proceed" – but this can't be done with current plane technology! Last week, councillors approved an out of date masterplan. Without an up to date masterplan, you can't approve expansion. Luton should be a good neighbour & listen to the many councils who say the application is premature.

6 Luton Rising says: 'green growth only' – Promises are easy. Emissions must not rise from present levels. But 51% of the damage caused by the Airport is from planes in the sky. 48% is from airport traffic – passengers, employees, taxis, diesel service vehicles, buses & coaches. This 99% of emissions the Wood report lists as 'Scope 3'. (para 106) It's hard to do much about this. Plans will all fail with expansion. We need to cut emissions NOW Until planes are fossil-fuel free and most people are driving electric vehicles, we need a **No-Fly decade**, where only vital journeys are made. Our climate plan should encourage residents to cut carbon, and teach climate solutions at ALL our schools. Not flying is the single biggest choice people can make. France is cutting domestic flights and encouraging trains - Germany & Sweden tax flights already.

7 Air pollution – biggest killer on the planet. Before Covid, Luton was UK's worst polluted town, with a big health problem. Where pollution's higher, risk from Covid is 75% greater. Govt monitoring showed morning rush hour pollution from traffic near the Challney Schools was often 3 or 4 times over the legal limit. Some of this traffic is due to doubling of passengers. Deliberately making health worse will blow apart Luton council's aim of zero poverty.

8 Personal responsibility – When your child or grandchild asks what you did in the great warming, will you tell them "I helped expand the airport' ? Or will you say "I helped to keep flying down, inspired residents to come together to tackle the climate threat, and kickstarted training & partnerships for low-carbon, green jobs to protect your future?"