London Luton Airport Expansion

Registration Identification number: 20039388

ATO Holdings Ltd

Written representation following Hearing

26th September

- 1. Bidwells acts on behalf of ATO Holdings Ltd. Our client owns plots 7-44 and plots 7-18 and 7-2.
- 2. At the hearing on the 26th September the Inspector enquired of the Applicant the purpose of the hedgerow and new hedgerow planting, in particular was it for ecological mitigation or screening the Airport. Vicky Fowler (Gowlings) on behalf of Bloor Homes referred to the Environmental Statement where the only stated purpose was screening. Counsel for the Applicant confirmed it was for screening. The Inspector also asked questions of the Applicant whether all the land in the DCO was required or needed for the stated purpose.
- 3. We invite the Inspectors on their site visit to carefully consider whether each and every part of the hedgerows shown on my clients' land are necessary/required/needed for screening the Airport. Whilst it is a matter my clients have taken up with Stephen Walker of cbre (agent for Luton Rising) and we hope will be resolved, if not, we invite the Inspectors to require the DCO plans to be amended so only the hedgerows, parts of hedgerows or new planting achieves the stated purpose, namely screening the Airport. This is vitally important given the impact these hedgerows will have of the future development of the allocation, especially when striking the balance between the Applicants need and the importance to the owners for the future development use.
- 4. At the hearing we highlighted that a new hedgerow is proposed to be planted to the rear of Crouchmoor buildings (see colouring blue on the attached plan). This hedgerow will severe Crouchmoor buildings from the field beyond. Given the intervening, permanent buildings, we can see no case that the new hedgerow planting is needed or required to mitigate views: the buildings obscure views. In addition, the existing hedgerow shown coloured red on the attached plan. serves no screening benefit as views are obscured once again by the permanent buildings and intervening landscaping already shown on the DCO plans.
- 5. These permanent buildings are not within the Green Belt and fall within the strategic housing allocation. In the event that the buildings were at some future date to be demolished, they would be replaced by housing as part of the housing allocation.
- In the earlier representations we have referred to plot 7-20, which comprises a narrow strip of land adjoining the Wandon End works buildings. Again, views of the Airport will be obscured by the buildings.

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Sign
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Bidwells LLP
27 September 2023

