

London Luton Airport Expansion

Buckinghamshire Council Response to Action Points Raised in Issue Specific Hearing 1

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1 Introduction

1.1. Terms of Reference

- 1.1.1. Buckinghamshire Council (the Council) is a neighbouring authority for the London Luton Airport Expansion Development Consent Order (DCO) referred to as 'the Scheme'.
- 1.1.2. This document provides the Council's response to the Action Points from the Issue Specific Hearing on the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) (ISH1) held on the morning of Tuesday 26th September 2023.

2 ISH1 Actions

2.1. Response from the local authorities of Dacorum and Buckinghamshire Councils on the membership of the ESG

- 2.1.1. It is a key concern of the Council that it is not included in the membership of the Environmental Scrutiny Group as set out in Requirement 20(2). Many of the Council's concerns would be addressed by the inclusion of the Council in Requirement 20(2). It is inclusion in the ESG that will permit the Council to represent its communities' best interests most effectively as described further in these submissions.
- 2.1.2. Requirement 20(6) requires the undertaker must establish Technical Panels, which will provide technical support to the ESG in relation to (a) air quality; (b) greenhouse gas emissions; (c) noise; and (d) surface access. These are areas where there are accepted impacts in the Council's area. There is some dispute as to the extent of the impacts in particular with regards highways. The airport accepts that there is a significant impact on the ANOB in relation to tranquillity through noise impacts and including in the AONB in Bucks. Further and importantly the GCG Framework is designed to be dynamic and over the period of operation of the authorised development, change is very likely and indeed there are material changes in the offing, namely airspace changes that could materially affect, e.g., the noise environment in Buckinghamshire. In such circumstances and where the Council has previously been involved in the noise envelope design group and the London Luton Airport Consultative Committee ("LLACC") which has a 'Noise and Track' sub-committee, the resistance to the Council's presence on the ESG and its Technical Panels is not understood. Given the Council's involvement in the 'Passenger Services' sub-committee of the LLACC Sits participation in the surface access technical panel is also significant in terms of ensuring that the communities from Buckinghamshire including residents and businesses can take the opportunities afforded by the airport. In addition, the Council has specific highways impacts points dealt with in ISH4 (see the Council's Post-hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases).