

Peter White-Final Submission

Firstly may I put on record my thanks to the Inspectors and the inquiry team for their guidance, patience and support throughout the 185 days of this Inquiry.

Like the vast majority of the general public who have engaged with the inquiry, the planning laws and regulations have been like learning several foreign languages whilst juggling jelly.

Throughout the open floor hearings, issue specific hearings and in the written correspondence with the inquiry team, they have guided many through that jelly mess, thank you.

With any planning application, be it an extension to the house next door, up to projects of this size and magnitude, the general public affected have to have faith in their local planning authority, that they will ensure that national and local planning directives will be met.

They have to have faith that if any development begins to adversely affect their quality of life, the developer will be dealt with by the planning authority so those conditions are enforced, and effects are negated.

In the case of this development, how can the public have that faith in the local planning authority?

The applicant Luton Rising is a company wholly owned by Luton Borough Council.

The Board of Luton Rising are all serving Councillors of Luton Borough Council.

The staff of Luton Rising are all listed in company accounts as employees of Luton Borough Council.

All the development funding of Luton Rising has been provided from a loan stream from Luton Borough Council.

Luton Rising has to get this development passed to generate the income to pay those loans.

The local planning authority for this application is Luton Borough Council.

The majority controlling political party, and the senior officers, of Luton Borough Council want this application to succeed.

Luton Borough Council needs it to succeed so that development income will fund their Vision 2040 plan, to eradicate poverty in Luton.

Luton Borough Council needs this application to guarantee there will be enough income to pay off the loans they have taken out for Luton Rising developments.

Luton Rising are Luton Borough Council, Luton Borough Council are Luton Rising.

How can the thousands of people affected by the current airport operations, and the huge increases planned under this application, have faith and trust that Luton Borough Council will look after their quality of life and best interest?

Luton Borough Council has never rejected any planning application regarding Luton Airport.

Luton Borough Council has always put economic benefits above environmental and quality of life impacts with airport planning decisions.

Luton Borough Council ignored their legally binding Local Plan, when deciding to allow the Eaton Green Access Road as part of Luton Rising's development on Wigmore Valley Park, called New Century Park/Green Horizons Business Park. This link road was key to alleviating congestion through the airport site.

Luton Borough Council allowed the breaching of planning conditions imposed on the airport operator regarding noise contours, within the approved airport development known as Project Curium. They allowed this as they were receiving financial benefits from that growth. That growth was actually funded by Luton Rising as part of a rapid growth incentive. Luton Borough Council/Luton Rising could have stopped those planning condition breaches, by simply stopping that scheme, but they chose not to.

Was this because Luton Borough Council told the airport operator they could just apply to them to amend the conditions, and they would be granted? That is actually what happened, but that application was called in by the Government for inquiry, before being passed.

At the second Open Floor Hearings in November 2023, the Chief Executive of Luton Borough Council spoke and outlaid how his application was the keystone of his Vision 2040 mentioned earlier. They were adamant that this application was crucial to that goal, and it was clearly apparent that any ethical or moral obligations to those living with airport intrusion in their lives would hold little weight in the pursuit of expansion.

In light of all these facts, how can the general public have any trust or faith that should his application be passed, that Luton Borough Council Development Management Committee will not just allow Luton Rising to rewrite the supposedly binding Green Controlled Growth controls to fit whichever agenda they see fit?