

From: Groom Richard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 27 September 2024 17:01
To: Luton Airport
Subject: TR020001- London Luton Airport Expansion

Categories: SoS Consultation

You don't often get email from [REDACTED].

Dear Sir / Madam,

Ref: 20039042

Further to your request for additional information, I draw your attention the following developments arising since my last email, which support my previous comments:

Cumbria Coal Mine High Court Ruling

On 13th September, the High Court overturned planning permission for a deep coal mine on the grounds that the planning application only addressed CO2 emissions arising from operation of the site - ignoring the emissions arising from burning the coal. The coal mine enables the burning of the coal because; if the coal was not mined, it could not be burned.

This is analogous to the situation at Luton - and airports in general. Flights cannot take place unless planes have somewhere to take-off and land. Airports enable flights and in-flight emissions, which should therefore be considered in the planning permission.

Luton Rising was pulled-up in July 2024 by the Advertising Standards Authority over a misleading advert related to this, as reported by the BBC: [REDACTED] which could encourage support for airport expansion and pressure from the public or indeed people with influence, based upon information that the ASA deemed misleading.

Doubts over carbon capture and storage

The Jet Zero strategy states that Carbon Capture will be used to reduce CO2 emissions by "20-30Mt" by 2030 (page 48). The Guardian reported on 25th September that climate scientists have concerns about this technology and urged the government to "pause plans for a billion pound investment in "green technologies" they say are unproven and would make it harder for the UK to reach its net zero targets".

If the planning process for Luton Airport expansion has a responsibility to ensure that the UK's emissions targets are not put in jeopardy (as stated in Flightpath to the Future (page 8)), the scientific concerns over carbon capture should surely be followed up and any expansion only permitted once the measures in Jet Zero have been proved, are 'in production' and are effective.

Airline sale in Summer 2025

On or around 4th September, the Luton Herald and Post reported that EasyJet plans a 'sale' of millions of seats for Summer 2025. If the airline is running at capacity and demanding more flight slots from Luton, one has to ask why it is necessary to sell seats cheaply at the peak time of year. This surely calls into question the argument that the airlines require Luton Airport to be expanded in order to meet genuine passenger demand.

Yours faithfully

Richard Groom

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Virus-free. [Redacted]