



## Meeting note

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|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b>            | Expansion of Luton Airport                   |
| <b>File reference</b>     | TR020001                                     |
| <b>Status</b>             | <b>Final</b>                                 |
| <b>Author</b>             | The Planning Inspectorate                    |
| <b>Date</b>               | 27 September 2021                            |
| <b>Meeting with</b>       | London Luton Airport Limited (the Applicant) |
| <b>Venue</b>              | Microsoft Teams meeting                      |
| <b>Meeting objectives</b> | Project update meeting                       |
| <b>Circulation</b>        | All attendees                                |

### **Summary of key points discussed and advice given:**

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

### **Green Managed Growth Programme Update**

The Applicant explained that it regarded its Green Managed Growth (GMG) approach (the overarching framework for monitoring, control and managing impacts for the lifetime of its expansion programme) integral to its growth strategy, in which it was working with its partners to deliver their shared sustainability aspirations. The four impacts which GMG will control are air quality, GHG emissions, noise and surface access. The Applicant set out that its forecasting work was being progressed although the operating limits had yet to be set.

The Applicant provided an overview of the three keys areas of GMG, which consisted of process, governance and implementation. In respect of governance, the Applicant explained that it was working on delivering a robust, transparent and independent process to encourage trust and participation from its partners and outlined its draft structure. The Inspectorate noted the role of the host local authorities and requested an update on engagement. The Applicant noted monthly officer group meetings with the local authorities in which the draft GMG structure had been shared.

The Applicant outlined its proposed enforcement structure for GMG, in which Luton Borough Council had an enforcement role and as such, some parties may consider it a conflict of interest. The Applicant explained it would not be changing the enforcement

process established but instead would be building in additional transparency improvements. The framework will provide transparent governance and clear sustainability objectives for the assessment of impacts. The Applicant set its next steps for GMG and noted a document on GMG will be included in its Statutory Consultation document suite; a draft of which can be shared with the Inspectorate in due course.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment update**

A high-level overview of the Applicant's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) programme was provided, in which drafting of the second Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) was ongoing and would be finalised ahead of its planned Statutory Consultation exercise in Quarter 1 2022 (SC22). It has been developed to represent a first draft of the Environmental Statement (ES).

The Applicant explained that it anticipated its PEIR to be similar to a draft ES once it is drafted and provided an update in respect of the data that has been used to update it since the previous version that was consulted on as part of its 2019 Statutory Consultation exercise. The Applicant noted responses to the 2019 PEIR will be addressed in the 2022 PEIR, where appropriate, whereas the response suite will be included in a 2019 consultation feedback document that will form part of the SC22 document suite.

The Applicant set out its sensitivity tests which considered circumstances such as consent for London Luton Airport Operations Limited's (the operator) separate application to increase capacity to 19 million passengers per annum and faster/ slower predicted growth. How the revised phasing for growth and EIA methodology had been updated were also explained. The Inspectorate queried if the SC22 PEIR will have any gaps in its data, such as construction and operation traffic. The Applicant confirmed it had a full set of construction and traffic data to complete a full assessment within the SC22 PEIR.

The Inspectorate queried if the Applicant intends to provide an outline Code of Construction Practice (COCP) with its ES. The Applicant confirmed a detailed outline COCP will be appended to the SC22 PEIR.

### **Demand Forecast and Traffic Modelling Update**

The Applicant set out its forecast predictions and carbon cost assessment work, and discussed ongoing work to understand the implications of recently released carbon values for assessment purposes from Defra.

The Applicant provided an overview of its ongoing traffic modelling work for each of its phases of expansion at 21.5, 27 and 32 million passengers per annum (mppa). Two tools are being used for the modelling, which have been agreed with the relevant highway authority.

The Applicant provided an update in respect of progress on its Travel Plan and noted regular meetings with the local authorities and National Highways had resumed and were currently focusing on sustainable transport opportunities and that copies of additional technical information had been shared with them. The Applicant noted that its intention was to consult on its Surface Access Strategy Report which would include elements of the Transport Assessment and also the Travel

Plan framework. This approach was to be followed as the Transport Assessment and Travel Plan would not be ready in full at the time of the consultation. In addition, the Applicant would also consult on the PEIR Transport chapter.

The Applicant introduced a new carparking framework to incorporate updated access and emissions charges.

### **Statutory Consultation**

The Applicant set out that it undertook its draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) consultation for its SC22 with 21 host and neighbouring local authorities between August and September 2021. An overview of the key themes raised in response was provided. The SC22 draft SoCC currently included provision of 13 face-to-face consultation events and acknowledged local authority feedback had raised concerns in respect of the number of physical events in comparison to the 2019 consultation exercise.

The Applicant confirmed it was adopting a 'digital first' approach and therefore would have fewer physical events and deposit locations. The length of the SC22 would run for a total of eight weeks. The Inspectorate queried whether the Applicant's consultation programme was on track. The Applicant confirmed it was and that it planned to publish the final SC22 SoCC at the start of consultation.

### **Any other business**

The Applicant confirmed its programme was on track and anticipated submission of its application in September 2022. The Applicant's programme included draft document suite submission in March 2022, which will include draft versions of: the Development Consent Order; work/ land plans; Statement of Matters and a document setting out the proposed Book of Reference structure. A draft of the GMG strategy can also be shared.

The Applicant was encouraged to extract upmost value from the Inspectorate's draft document review service by providing well-developed drafts and to signpost to specific sections/ documents where focused feedback is sought. The Applicant suggested inclusion of its draft CoCP and 2022 Statutory Consultation documents suite within the draft document suite.

The Applicant acknowledged that its [Advice Note Six: Preparation and submission of application](#) and [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#) have both been updated to state that any external hyperlink included in application documents and/ submissions will be redacted when published. The Inspectorate advised that referenced information should either be quoted with the relevant excerpt or appended in full as part of a suite of core documents. The Applicant highlighted the possibility of appending a list of over-arching core documents, such as relevant policy documents.