

## Meeting note

<b>Project</b>	Expansion of Luton Airport
<b>File reference</b>	
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate)
<b>Date</b>	25 April 2022
<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.

### Initial overview of responses to statutory consultation

The Applicant presented information about its Statutory Consultation process which took place 8 February to 4 April 2022. Additional briefings were held with Local Authorities and with WSP (Host Authorities consultant). Furthermore, Dacorum Borough Council (as host authority) and Three Rivers District Council (as neighbouring authority) were also consulted. During the Digital led consultation over 16 000 users visited the website and nearly 4000 users entered the Virtual Engagement room. Beside the 13 physical engagement events, one additional combined online and physical event was held with panel discussion.

Nearly 3800 written responses were received in total (including 39 Prescribed Consultee responses) via online, hard copy and emails. The quality and breadth of information was recognised by the consultees, and, compared to 2019, fewer responses requested more information.

The Applicant stated that the initial review of responses from Prescribed Consultees has not revealed any surprises or showstoppers, only some expected areas of challenge (e.g., carbon, noise, surface access) which are being carefully considered. Some aspects of the proposal will require further active engagement with stakeholders before submission (e.g., Green Controlled Growth (GCG), Road Access Charging). Most common concerns raised by the public were noise, air

quality, climate change, traffic and 'greenwashing' mainly in connection with the proposed GCG.

### **Update of DCO application programme and sharing of draft documents with the Planning Inspectorate**

The Applicant outlined the Programme for Quarter 2, 3 and 4 of 2022 until submission. The Inspectorate will be requested to review the Core Documents (e.g., Draft Development Consent Order, Explanatory Memorandum, Statement of Reasons, a proposed template of the Book of Reference, Consultation Report and indicative examples of various application plans in August-September 2022. The Applicant proposed to send the draft GCG framework document to the Inspectorate before other documents, which is also available on their website.

The Inspectorate confirmed that it would take 6-8 weeks to provide feedback on the draft documents. The Inspectorate enquired whether the Applicant intended for any draft Habitats Regulations Assessment documents to be included in the draft documents. The Applicant responded that its relevant expert will revert to the Inspectorate on that point. **Post meeting note:** The Applicant's environmental advisor has confirmed that a Habitats Regulations Assessment No Significant Effects Report was published as Appendix 8.3 to the PEIR as part of the Statutory Consultation. A further draft of the final document, to be appended to the Environmental Statement, could be made available to the Inspectorate in late September 2022 if required. However, it is not expected to be materially different to the published version.

### **Brief update on the latest position regarding Jet Zero and carbon values**

The Applicant referred to the Department for Transport (DfT) Jet Zero Consultation, which closed on 25 April. The final Jet Zero strategy is expected later in 2022. The Applicant emphasised that the demand forecast for the DCO remain consistent with Government policy. Whilst its forecast is focused on Luton, the key consideration is being consistent with DfT's overarching UK methodology, on a national level. It has recalibrated its UK market demand model, which included updated economic assumptions, oil price assumptions and other factors (Brexit, COVID pandemic, war in Ukraine etc.). The Applicant made reference to the carbon cost projections by BEIS that were debated at the Bristol Airport Inquiry last year. Overall, the Applicant's indication is that the Assessment Scenarios remain robust, although the precise output parameters, such as fleet mix, are yet to be verified to inform the final environmental assessments.

The Applicant stated that they will keep their forecast under review and will take into account all consultation responses and any further government policy changes. The Inspectorate reminded the Applicant to remain as open and transparent as possible throughout the NSIP process.

The Inspectorate asked for an update in regard to working with National Highways and the implications of the National Networks National Policy Statement (NPS). The

Applicant's traffic and transport expert wasn't present in the project update meeting; therefore, this will be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Any other business**

The Applicant confirmed that it will finalise the previous two Project Update Meeting notes, which will be published shortly on the Inspectorate's portal.

The Inspectorate referred briefly to the called-in application (21/00031/VARCON), which has been transferred to the Secretary of State for decision-making. The Applicant commented that it was keeping a very close eye on the application; however, it intends to progress with the NSIP application programme as planned.

The Inspectorate drew the Applicant's attention to Advice Note Six: Preparation and submission of application documents. The Applicant was strongly encouraged to hold pre-application discussions with the Inspectorate about how their application information should be prepared and submitted well in advance of formal submission. If an electronic only application is accepted for examination, the Inspectorate advised that it remains possible that the Examining Authority will still require elements of the application to be provided in printed copy (e.g. works plans) before Examination.

The next Project Update Meeting will be scheduled in June/July.