

Dear Councillor,

Update regarding Southampton Airport's runway planning application

Application reference: F/19/86707

Background

As you will be aware, in November 2019, Southampton International Airport (SIA) submitted a planning application (**F/19/86707**) to Eastleigh Borough Council seeking permission for a 164-metre extension to the northern end of our runway. As the new Operations Director in charge of the airport, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on:

- The need for our runway extension;
- Our new status as a Carbon Neutral Airport as of May 2020;
- The progress of our application;
- The additional information we have provided to support our application; and
- How you can contribute to Eastleigh Borough Council's re-consultation.

Why does Southampton Airport need a runway extension?

Southampton Airport is an **absolutely crucial part of the region's economy** – and in the aftermath of the Coronavirus pandemic, it will play an **essential role in the South's economic recovery**. The airport provides vital transport connections, linking our region to the rest of the UK and western Europe, and giving our businesses, large and small, opportunities to grow and expand. **The value of this regional connectivity is measured in the thousands of jobs and livelihoods** which directly depend on easy access to cities and markets, from Paris to Amsterdam and Edinburgh to Dublin.

However, following the collapse of Flybe – which provided 80% of our routes – and the damaging impact of the pandemic, **the viability of Southampton Airport is in doubt**. The airport's runway length is no longer suitable for today's modern airline fleets, and so there is an **urgent and pressing need to attract new airlines to the airport**.

If Southampton Airport is to survive and thrive as a regional airport, it will be **critical to allow us to extend the runway**. This short extension, within our existing boundaries, will **make the airport economically viable for a wider range of airlines – guaranteeing our survival, safeguarding regional connectivity, and protecting thousands of jobs across the South** linked to our operations. Please note that this is not about 'bigger planes'. This is about allowing current aircraft to fly in/out with full loads in all weathers.

As we seek to extend the airport's runway, we have pro-actively sought to reduce our carbon impact and deliver a cleaner future. In this regard, I am delighted to inform you that **Southampton Airport is now a Carbon Neutral Airport**. As of May 2020, we are **amongst the very first airports in the UK to offset all of our CO₂ emissions identified in our carbon footprint**. For your information, I have attached a newsletter setting out how we achieved this and the further steps we are taking.

Initial Public Consultation

During the initial public consultation on our application, held between December 2019 and January 2020, Eastleigh Borough Council received more than 1,000 responses from members of the public and stakeholders.

Alongside this, Southampton Airport recently hosted a survey on its website, advertised via Facebook which sought the views of residents and businesses across the South on our runway

feedback, which sought the views of residents and businesses across the South on our runway application. Of the 5,051 responses we received, **4,273 respondents (85%) expressed their support for our runway plans.**

We are greatly encouraged by the level of support we have received from the across the community and have taken time to review the feedback and discuss the issues raised with key stakeholders and consultees.

Second Public Consultation

Over the last few months, we and the Council have carefully reviewed all the comments received during the initial consultation. In light of this feedback – and following a re-assessment of the airport's operations in light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic – we have now **submitted additional information to support the application and provide further clarifications.** In response, Eastleigh Borough Council will now re-consult the community.

All of the additional information and clarification we have provided is available for you to view on Eastleigh Borough Council's dedicated web page – <https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/planning-and-building/southampton-airport-planning-application> – which you can also find using the application reference **F/19/86707**. I would **encourage you to support the application directly on the Council's planning file.**

For your ease, I have summarised the key elements of our supplementary information below:

General

- Reduction in the number of additional car parking spaces being provided (down from 600 to 470);
- A 'Sensitivity Analysis' which considers the effects of the reduced operations both with and without the proposed runway extension following the collapse of Flybe;
- Further explanation of why the runway extension is needed to accommodate the types of aircraft being operated by most commercial airlines;
- An analysis of the proportion of passengers travelling from Southampton Airport who would travel by road or rail to another airport to access flights if services are not provided at Southampton;
- Provision of further information and clarification over scenarios assessed within the Environmental Statement; and
- Description of the proposed 'cap' on the growth of the airport which would be approximately equivalent to a 50% increase in the number of passengers above the 2018 levels.

Socio-economics

- Additional and revised information on the types and quantum of jobs supported (at the airport and in the wider economy) by the runway extension.

Air Quality

- Further data and analysis to support the conclusion of the Environmental Statement that neither the construction nor the operation of the runway extension will cause significant adverse impacts on local air quality.

Transport

- Provision of further modelling evidence for local roads and junctions; and
- Revised Surface Access Strategy which includes additional measures to encourage passengers to use public transport to access the airport.

Ecology

- Further information on the impacts of the development on habitats and species on and close to the airport and proposals for biodiversity enhancements.

Noise

- More information on the effects of noise on homes and public buildings and spaces which support the conclusions of the original assessment; and
- Details of the Noise Insulation Policy to be employed which will mitigate noise impacts for

residential properties most affected by the proposed development.

Climate change

- Provision of additional data to allow assessment of greenhouse gases that would be generated during construction;
- Responds to queries and provides background data that underpins the calculation of the greenhouse gas emissions that would be generated by aircraft using the extended runway; and
- Additional details of carbon neutral measures being implemented at the airport.

Population & health

- Provision of more detailed assessment of health impacts which acknowledges the health characteristics of the neighbourhoods closest to the airport rather than Eastleigh Borough as a whole; and
- Further consideration of impact of increase in air quality levels and of noise on open spaces and public buildings on health.

Other information

- Supplement to Planning Statement providing updates to national aviation policy following Heathrow decision earlier in 2020; and
- Local Plan policy updates.

Next Steps

As we begin to deal with the consequences of Covid-19, it is clear that we need to take decisive action to **reboot our region**. By re-connecting our economy, protecting thousands of jobs across our supply chains, and opening up new economic opportunities, **Southampton Airport's runway extension plans offer a unique opportunity to lead the post-pandemic recovery of the South's economy**.

Following the second round of public consultation, Eastleigh Borough Council will consider any additional feedback received. We then anticipate that a decision on our runway extension application will be made by the Eastleigh Local Area Committee later in 2020.

I hope that you have found this update useful. If you have any further questions, or would like to speak to me about the application or the future of the airport, please do not hesitate to contact **Lucy Dibdin** or **Brian McClean** via consultation@southamptonairport.com to arrange a conversation.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Szalay

Operations Director, Southampton International Airport



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