

**AIRPORT POLICY TASK GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 3.00 pm on 17 NOVEMBER 2006**

Present:- Councillors A Dean – Chairman.
Councillors C A Cant, J F Cheetham, M A Gayler, E J Godwin,
A R Thawley and P A Wilcock.

Officers in attendance:- A Bovaird, R Auty, R Harborough, J Mitchell,
M J Perry, M T Purkiss and T Turner.

AP1 **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor A J Ketteridge.

AP2 **COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

Peter Hayward and Gill Kirk, the communications consultants, attended the meeting for this item.

They reported that the Stansted Explained website was being updated on a regular basis and they were in regular contact with the media about progress with the planning application. The planning application would be determined at the Development Control meeting on 29 November and this meeting would be webcammed. The consultants said that they would try to assess how many representatives of the press would want to attend the meeting and determine whether they had any special requirements. Alasdair Bovaird said that he did not feel it appropriate for the debate to be shown on television, but a short introduction to the meeting might be appropriate. He also suggested that there should be a press conference at the conclusion of the meeting and the debate could be webcammed in the staff room so that more people could follow the proceedings.

John Mitchell said that the report to the meeting would be in three sections, a report on climate change, a report on the planning application itself and a summary of the representations which had been received. He said that officers would be recommending refusal of the application on nine grounds and added that the proposed reasons for refusal were being discussed with Counsel.

Councillor Cheetham asked that Members should receive a copy of the report before it was made available to the media and John Mitchell confirmed that a draft would be sent to Members of the Development Control Committee and this Task Group.

Peter Hayward suggested that an opinion survey box could be added to the website after the decision was made to enable an assessment to be made of the opinions of the local community. Councillor Dean said that there was no obvious link between the Stansted Explained website and various documents on the Council's website and Peter Hayward confirmed that this was being addressed. Peter Hayward also reported that the Saffron Walden Weekly News were preparing an article on the process the Council had gone through

in determining the application. He suggested that an e.conference could be arranged in the week following the decision of the committee.

It was also agreed that Richard Auty, in liaison with the consultants, would prepare a basic guide giving details of the application.

AP3 CLIMATE CHANGE

It was confirmed that the issue of climate change would be addressed in a separate report which would be submitted to the meeting on 29 November.

AP4 LEGAL ADVICE

It was confirmed that advice from Counsel had been received and was being considered. It was also suggested that if Members were in any doubt about statements they wished to make at the meeting, they should seek advice from the Council's officers beforehand.

AP5 RUNWAY 2

It was noted that an announcement on the Runway 2 options had been delayed until January 2007. Councillor Cheetham said that excavations only appeared to be happening at the preferred site option and officers said that they would seek clarification on this issue.

AP6 NEXT STEPS

Following the decision, it was noted that a press conference would be held and it was also agreed that an advert would be placed in the local media explaining the decision taken. Technical work would then continue on preparing for a public inquiry and the Runway 2 issue.

AP7 NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at 8.00 am on Friday 15 December 2006.

The meeting ended at 4.10 pm.