

**AIRPORT POLICY TASK GROUP held at ENDEAVOUR HOUSE
STANSTED AIRPORT at 5.00pm on 30 MAY 2007**

Present: - Councillor A J Ketteridge – Chairman
Councillors C Cant, J F Cheetham, A Dean, E J Godwin,
P A Wilcock (from 5pm)

Officers in attendance: - A Bovaird, R Harborough, J Mitchell,
M Perry

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S J Barker and K R Artus and Richard Auty.

AP1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members were disappointed that the proposed conference had not proved possible to organise successfully. Members were aware that Essex County Council were planning a conference in the Autumn on climate change and asked officers to ensure that Uttlesford had volunteered to take a prominent role in that conference.

Members asked what progress there had been on the Harlow Gateway Stansted Transportation Board. The Chief Executive advised that a letter of concern had been written to the Director of Highways, Tony Ciaburro, and a reply received. The reply did not take the issue forward from our perspective and the Chief Executive was due to meet Mr Ciaburro on 8 June to discuss this issue and others.

AP2 STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

Officers explained that the Statement of Common Ground should be regarded as one of the core documents for the inquiry and had been placed in BAA's bundle of evidence in error. There was some concern on the part of Members that the Statement of Common Ground might have conceded too much ground, particularly in respect of cognitive/learning development. In response, John Mitchell and Roger Harborough advised that the Statement of Common Ground had been discussed and agreed with our Counsel and followed directly from the position of the Council adopted in November when it determined the planning application and subsequently at meetings of the Four Authorities group. I also advised Members that much of BAA's original draft of the Statement had been struck out. Councillor Cheetham wished it to be recorded that she did not agree with the Statement that ground noise could be dealt with by mitigation.

AP3 PLANNING WHITE PAPER

Members and officers were both concerned that the Planning White Paper seemed to signal that future issues such as the expansion of the airport would be dealt with not by the local planning authority but by an independent planning commission. John Mitchell advised that there were many aspects of the White Paper, some of which were more positive, and that it was being consulted upon until 19 August. The Council would need to take a view of the full Paper and frame a response accordingly. It was also clear that any application for a second runway would arise well before the implementation of legislation following the White Paper and therefore would be dealt with under the current system.

AP4 G2 SURFACE ACCESS CONSULTATION

The consultation period for this document ends on 5 June. However, BAA have during the course of preparation for the inquiry, made major changes to the transport modelling assumptions that underlie both the current application and the G2 application. No interested party – including the Highways Agency - has been able to make any proper assessment of the revised modelling and the Council's response to consultation would therefore be to make this clear. A holding response would not at this stage, given the circumstances, jeopardise our ability to challenge the proposals over the period in advance of and during the consideration of the planning application.

AP5 WENT THE DAY WELL?

The general view was that the inquiry had gone well on its first day and Members were, in particular, impressed with the performance of our Counsel.

AP6 TRANSCRIPTS/COMMUNICATION

The Chief Executive had written to Members with the position on transcripts and has agreed to continue to explore the possibilities of making audio recordings of the events of the inquiry. Members were concerned that BAA and the Airline Consultative Committee were taking transcripts of their examination of each others evidence. Officers explained that this was only for commercial, rather than planning, reasons but did agree to enquire as to whether those transcripts would be available to the Council.

Richard Auty had sent a note out explaining that the intention was to issue a bulletin on at least a weekly basis on progress at the inquiry to all Members and other interested parties. This would be of a purely factual nature since it would not be appropriate for any commentary on the progress of the inquiry to be made while it was underway. The content would be agreed by Messrs Mitchell, Perry and Harborough before it was circulated.

AP7 DATE OF THE NEXT MEEETING

A list of provisional dates had been circulated and were agreed.

The next meeting would be held on Friday, 29 June followed by 7 September, 5 October, 2 November and 7 December - all to be at 9am. The meeting in August (3 August) to be held only if necessary and with those Members who are available. Councillor Cheetham gave her apologies in advance for the meeting on the 5 October. It was noted that Councillor Artus had been added to the circulation for this group since the Chair of STAAP should be a member of the Airport Policy Task Group. It was noted that this position would need to be regularised at the 31 July Council meeting.