

AIRPORT POLICY TASK GROUP at the COUNCIL OFFICES, LONDON ROAD, SAFFRON WALDEN on 29 JUNE 2007 at 9.00 am

Present: - Councillor A J Ketteridge – Chairman
Councillors S Barker, C Cant, A Dean, E J Godwin and P A Wilcock

Officers Present: - A Bovaird, R Harborough, J Mitchell and E O'Malley

AP8 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J F Cheetham and K R Artus.

AP9 G1 INQUIRY PROGRESS AND EXPERIENCE

John Mitchell gave an update on the G1 Inquiry. He explained that UDC was currently four weeks into the inquiry and that both UDC and BAA would have presented their case by 6 July. Following this, the Airlines Consultative Committee, SSE, National Trust and other parties would present their evidence. John Mitchell commented that BAA's case relied strongly on the Air Transport White Paper, which stated that the first priority was to make best use of Stansted Airport. This had been further endorsed by the recent government planning white paper.

Members referred to suggestions that the air traffic white paper breached the Human Right Act. John Mitchell pointed out that the White Paper had taken into account extensive consultation in its preparation.

Members requested advice as how best to use slots that they had been allocated in the Inquiry programme. Members also requested that Officers flagged important sessions to them via email, so that they did not miss important moments in the inquiry.

ACTION: In order to ensure Members attendance improved at the inquiry, Officers would alert them when they felt important sessions were coming up.

AP10 PREPARING FOR G2

John Mitchell reported that at present UDC were expecting the G2 application in late autumn, and they were aware that it was going to be a bigger task than the current G1 Inquiry so preparations would need to be underway as soon as possible. He was seeking advice from Counsel as to how to handle this situation.

AP11 RESOURCING

John Mitchell explained that resources for the G2 inquiry needed to be organised. He said that in the coming weeks a plan would be put together and

that help would be required from both Essex and Hertfordshire County Councils to resource its implementation.

ACTION: A political level discussion would be arranged to discuss staffing issues for the G2 Inquiry in late autumn.

AP12 UDC HOUSING STOCK WITHIN THE CPO AREA

Roger Harborough reported that discussions had taken place with BAA recently regarding the UDC housing stock within the CPO area to scope the options. Members discussed a way forward that would maintain community cohesion whilst providing reassurance to tenants that, if the CPO were to be confirmed, their interests would be addressed. Officers would continue to liaise with the tenants affected.

AP13 HIGHS AND LOWS AT THE PUBLIC INQUIRY

Councillor A Dean suggested that because this item had already been covered in agenda items 1 and 2 he felt it would be unnecessary to discuss the public inquiry further.

AP14 HARLOW STANSTED GATEWAY TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Councillor A Dean explained that he had attended a Harlow Stansted Gateway Transport Board meeting which had proved interesting. He said that although most of the discussions were based on the Harlow area, many of the transport links to Harlow were from Uttlesford, and therefore the Council should ensure that it secured a seat on this Board.

ACTION: Alasdair Bovaird to seek a seat on the Board of the Harlow Stansted Gateway Transport Board.

AP15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman thanked John Mitchell and Roger Harborough and their team for their hard work at the G1 Inquiry.

AP16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting had been provisionally arranged for 3 August in case any vital issues arose. However if this meeting did not take place, then the next meeting will commence on the 7 September.

The meeting ended at 10.30 am