

**STANSTED AIRPORT ADVISORY PANEL held at COUNCIL OFFICES  
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 6.00 pm on 17 SEPTEMBER  
2002**

Present:- Councillor A C Streeter – Chairman.  
Councillors Mrs M A Caton, Mrs J F Cheetham, A Dean,  
Mrs E J Godwin, R A Merrion, G Sell and P A Wilcock.

Also present:- Councillors R J Copping, D W Gregory, Mrs J E Menell and  
R W L Stone.

Officers in attendance:- W Cockerell, R Harborough, B D Perkins, and  
M T Purkiss.

**SA12 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M L Foley and  
R C Smith.

**SA13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs J F Cheetham declared an interest as a member of NWEHPA  
and SSE and Councillor D W Gregory declared an interest as an employee of  
a taxi company which operated from the Airport.

**SA14 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meetings of the Advisory Panel held on 15 July and  
2 September 2002 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as correct  
records.

**SA15 BUSINESS ARISING**

**(i) SA5 – Night Flights Heathrow: Government Appeal**

It was noted that the current provisional date for this hearing was 19  
November 2002.

**(ii) SA11 – Future Meetings**

Councillor A Dean referred to the suggestion from Councillor Gregory that a  
Member Workshop should be held on Stansted Airport prior to the special  
meeting of the Environment and Transport Committee on 4 November 2002.  
However, it was considered that the special meetings of the Advisory Panel  
leading up to that meeting took the form of Member Workshops and all  
Members would be reminded that they were able to attend these meetings.

Councillor Mrs Cheetham said that at a recent presentation by SASIG it had  
been suggested the number of homes affected by the Cliffe proposals was

lower than stated in the consultation document. The Director of Community Services agreed to investigate and clarify this matter. In answer to questions from Councillor Sell he confirmed that Officer contact with other Councils was being made directly and through SASIG. He understood that Kent County Council and Medway Council were applying for a judicial review of the Government's exclusion of Gatwick as an option site because of an existing legal agreement.

Councillor A Dean said that he had attended two public meetings concerning the Cliffe proposals and there had been concern that insufficient publicity had been given to these meetings and there was pressure for a further public meeting in that locality. The Advisory Panel considered that similar problems had occurred with the Department for Transport exhibition concerning Stansted and Officers would request that a further public exhibition be held in this area and better publicity be given for the arrangements.

SA16

## **THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON FUTURE AVIATION POLICY**

Prior to the meeting the Director of Community Services had circulated a discussion paper to Members highlighting some points to help formulate the Council's response to the consultation on future aviation policy. He emphasised that it was important to concentrate, at least at this stage, on strategic issues and to ensure that whatever the Council's formal response it did not undermine the prime objective of preventing further runway development at Stansted. He asked Members to consider whether the Council should put a view to the Government on alternative sites/locations, assuming the demand justified it, particularly because Uttlesford had a major airport in its area.

Most Members felt that the Council must put forward positive suggestions including the identification of other sites/locations, if necessary, even if in only general terms.

It was felt that many people did not want to travel to the South East for air travel which only caused congestion on adjacent motorways such as the M11 and M25. The Government was currently promoting regionalisation and some Members suggested that greater use of regional airports enabling people to fly from their own area should be part of national airport policy

It was understood from meetings with Essex County Council that whilst most County Councillors were opposed to Stansted there was also some opposition to the proposals at Cliffe which would impact on the southern part of the County. Officers explained what other estuarial and off-shore sites the Government had looked at and it was agreed that copies of a map and supporting text would be circulated to Members of the Advisory Panel.

A number of Members expressed concern at the already congested airspace over the South East and the ability of Air Traffic Control to cope with further substantial increases. In relation to noise, Members pointed out that Uttlesford was a rural area with low ambient noise levels and it was felt that

this was a strong argument to use against proposals for additional runways at Stansted.

A number of Members stressed the importance of ongoing dialogue with neighbouring authorities, town and parish councils and the Youth Forum. The Director of Community Services said that networks were being developed and would be an important part of the Council's strategy. Members referred to the Department of Transport questionnaire and the issue of whether and how this Council should complete the questionnaire and what advice, if any, should be given to the public about its completion. Members also stressed that they felt that a "Pledge card" containing key points and arguments about the Airport should be produced and made widely available. The Director of Community Services said that these issues would be discussed with the Council's consultants later in the week. Members also felt that it would be useful if a representative of the consultants could attend one of the Advisory Panel's meetings and this would also be discussed with them.

Following a full discussion on whether the Council should promote other sites, it was generally agreed that some form of alternative strategy was needed. It was also important to spell out what additional runways would mean in this area as there appeared to be a lack of understanding of the enormous consequences. Members also considered that it was important to get the issue of air transport back onto the national agenda.

The Director of Community Services said that the result of the Referendum would be delivered to 10 Downing Street and this could be combined with other events to attract national publicity. In addition, the Sunday Ramble would be publicised nationally. The Director also clarified the arrangements for the Referendum and said that the ballot paper would go out with supporting information prepared by the Referendum Group and a letter which would be signed by all Group Leaders.

He said that the agenda for the next meeting would include formulating reasons why there should be no additional runways at Stansted. Councillor Wilcock also stressed the importance of developing public consultation.

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm