

**STANSTED AIRPORT ADVISORY PANEL held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on 9 JUNE 2008**

Present:- Councillor D M Jones – Chairman.
Councillors K R Artus, J F Cheetham, A Dean, R M
Lemon, G Sell, D G Perry and P A Wilcock.

Officers
in attendance:- W Cockerell (Principal Environmental Health Officer), R
Harborough (Head of Planning and Housing Strategy), J
Mitchell (Interim Chief Executive) and R Procter
(Democratic Services Officer).

SAP1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C A Cant and E J
Godwin.

*Councillor K R Artus declared a personal interest as a member of the National
Trust.*

*Councillor J F Cheetham declared a personal interest as a member of SSE,
the National Trust, Hatfield Forest Management Committee and a sub-
committee of NWEHPA.*

*Councillor A Dean declared a personal interest as a member of SSE and the
National Trust.*

*Councillor R M Lemon declared a personal interest as a member of the
National Trust and Hatfield Heath Parish Council.*

SAP2 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2008 were agreed and signed
by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the following amendments to
SAP28:

To delete the sentence “Councillor D M Jones declared a personal interest as
a member of the National Trust”, and to note that Councillor D M Jones was
not and had never been a member of the National Trust.

To omit from the declaration stated for Councillor P A Wilcock the reference to
SSE, and to note that he had resigned from SSE in September 2007.

(i) Minute SAP27 – NATS consultation

Members requested that a response to requests for further information from
NATS be pursued.

(ii) Minute SAP29 – G2 inquiry

Councillor R M Lemon expressed concern at the Council's insufficient publicity on its opposition to G2, and said he knew of no financial reason why a poster could not be put up outside the offices. He was pleased that a poster was now being displayed in reception, although this was not enough. He questioned progress on designs for artwork for recycling vehicles. The Head of Planning and Housing Strategy said that the Head of Community Engagement had taken on responsibility for publicity for this matter. The campaign message would be applied to 8 recycling freighters at the end of this week.

Councillor K R Artus condemned the lack of action on publicity which he said compared adversely with the launch of the CO2 campaign by Essex County Council, and said that a PR strategy was needed. He said that on the question of publicity the Council had done nothing.

The Interim Chief Executive took issue with allegations of lack of action. He said officers were representing the Council at the public inquiry, and no-one in the District could be in any doubt about the Council's views on the Airport. He referred to action being taken regarding the refuse vehicle stickers and said that a poster could be put up on the noticeboard outside the offices.

(Councillor D G Perry joined the meeting.)

Councillor J F Cheetham suggested that the Head of Community Engagement be asked to increase the impact of the publicity in the reception area. As a temporary measure during his absence on leave a poster stating the Council's opposition to G2 should be displayed on the noticeboard outside the offices.

Councillor A Dean questioned the absence of the G2 inquiry from what was a very slim agenda, and suggested that this topic should be a standing item on the agenda. He said that silence on this matter could result in public complacency, with fewer representations being made than would otherwise be the case.

(Councillor L A Wells joined the meeting.)

Councillor G Sell said it was more difficult to engage people in opposition to G2 than to G1, and that simple actions to raise awareness were important.

The Interim Chief Executive said it could always be argued that more could be done, and that it was a question of resources. He did not accept that people were not aware of this matter proceeding, or that nothing had happened.

Councillor J F Cheetham said that the outcome of G1 was now awaited, that officers were working hard with partners from the four authorities, which meant there was accordingly a different approach to G2. Councillor R M

Lemon agreed that officers were working hard, but said it could not be right that officers could not put a poster on a noticeboard.

ACTION

- i. A poster indicating the Council's opposition to G2 to be placed on the notice board outside the Council offices.
- ii. The Head of Community Engagement to be requested to improve publicity on the Council's opposition to G2.

(iii) SAP32 – G1 Inquiry Expenditure

The Head of Planning and Housing Strategy said an announcement on the public inquiry had been expected by BAA last week, but it was still awaited.

(iv) SAP33 – G2 consultation with Parish and Town Councils

Councillor A Dean sought an update on consultation arrangements for Parish Councils. The Head of Planning and Housing Strategy said arrangements were dependent on the presumed calling in of the application and that a report would be issued in early 2009. The possibility of inviting BAA to give a presentation was being considered, and would be discussed later in this meeting.

SAP3

NATS PROPOSED CHANGES TO AIRSPACE CONSULTATION

In view of the decision by NATS to extend the consultation period, the proposed response document prepared by officers and produced at the recent meeting of Full Council was considered. Councillor K R Artus noted that no responses other than from Councillor A Dean had been received. Officers confirmed that a formal response had not yet been sent to NATS.

Further comments from the Panel were sought. Councillor R M Lemon said he would provide notes of his presentation to schools to the Principal Environmental Health Officer. Officers confirmed that responses to most questions put to NATS had been received, but that outstanding requests would be pursued. Any further comments from Members should be sent to the Head of Planning and Housing Strategy by 16 June in order to finalise the document for submission. The expiry of the NATS extended deadline was now 19 June. Councillor K R Artus said he would work with officers to tie up the final version of the response document, as had been agreed at Full Council.

Councillor G Sell said it was important that this document also contained the response of the Parish Councils. The Head of Planning and Housing Strategy confirmed that the proposed response had been sent to all Parish and Town Councils and that he had received some responses. Councillor Cheetham

said there was a good level of awareness across the District, and noted that SSE had responded to the consultation.

ACTION

- i. Officers to pursue outstanding requests for information from NATS
- ii. Members of the Panel to send any further comments on the draft response document to the Head of Planning and Housing Strategy by 16 June.
- iii. The draft response document to be finalised and submitted to NATS prior to the deadline of 19 June.

SAP4

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Head of Planning and Housing Strategy gave an update on G2. Through joint working arrangements, Counsel had been instructed by Essex County Council. The primary focus was now on commissioning consultants, and reviewing with counsel their advice on the documentation submitted by BAA to explore themes and identify critical issues.

Consultants would be required in various subjects. Regarding air traffic demand, changes in assumptions to those underpinning the White Paper – such as rising oil costs - could have an impact on demand. Changes in the structure of the air transport industry also needed to be considered.

Regarding environmental effects and economic benefits, Volterra Consulting had been engaged as economic consultants. Mike Burchill, who had represented EERA at the public examination of the East of England Plan, had been commissioned as the planning witness on behalf of the four authorities.

Consideration of matters such as impact on listed buildings, archaeology and historic landscape would be handled initially in-house by Essex County Council. Consultants would be appointed as expert witnesses, and these were being assessed.

Regarding air quality, the expert who acted in the G1 application, Stephen Moorcroft of Air Quality Consultants Moorcroft, would be retained.

Regarding noise, a combination of consultants would be required. Bureau Veritas had been commissioned to provide the capacity to carry out modelling work and to advise on matters such as the ANASE study and recent reports of the health impacts of noise. Talks were being held with the National Trust on the possibility of a joint witness on the effects of air noise on communities and tranquillity.

Regarding surface transport, Mouchel Parkman had been engaged via Essex County Council. There were three aspects to be considered: rail issues; objections to the Highways Agency junctions orders; and the local road network.

Councillor R M Lemon said food costs, as well as fuel costs had increased, and regard should be had to the potential loss through this development of agricultural land for crop cultivation.

Councillor A Dean expressed concern that, in contrast with G1, he did not feel sufficiently informed about the G2 application.

Councillor P A Wilcock agreed with this view. He referred to high oil prices and said that a weakening economy could bring about the end of low cost fares. He said the Sustainable Development Commission report referred to the lack of transparency in aviation. Clarification provided by the consultants on facts and figures relating to forecast demand would be important.

Councillor J F Cheetham supported what Councillor A Dean had said. She agreed that a presentation by BAA would be helpful, but suspected this would not be forthcoming until after the G1 decision, as things were currently somewhat in limbo. In the meantime, she asked officers to include an update in the Members' Bulletin.

Regarding carbon gas emissions, the Head of Planning and Housing Strategy said an approach would be determined once the G1 decision was known, and that this issue was possibly one which would come within the remit of a number of witnesses such as those dealing with air traffic demand, economics and air quality. The increasing costs of food, fuel and borrowing resulted in less discretionary spend for households, which could have a bearing on "short breaks". The social cost of carbon emissions needed to be factored in to assessments.

Meetings were taking place at officer level with SSE in order to identify gaps in submissions.

Regarding a presentation by BAA to Members, officers had made an initial request and the response had at that time been positive, but it was not known if it would be feasible to also include a representative from each town and parish council.

Regarding call-in, the Head of Planning and Housing Strategy said this could happen at any time. GO-East had been notified that the Council had agreed to extend the period for representations on the planning application to 26 September. BAA had made no objection to the extension of time for determining the application. It was possible that the public inquiry might not take place until spring 2009.

The Head of Planning and Housing Strategy said that he would be seeking delegated authority from the Development Control Committee to serve notice on BAA requiring more information on the environmental impact of the G2 proposals.

Councillors J F Cheetham and L A Wells made a personal declaration at this point as members of the Development Control Committee.

The Head of Planning and Housing Strategy said that BAA had now issued its proposed scope and methodology for producing an Economic Impact Report as the G2 proposals were likely to be designated a major infrastructure project by the Secretary of State. Accordingly, consultants' views were being sought on whether this methodology was appropriate. The issue had also been discussed with SSE.

In response to questions, officers advised that the Inquiry procedures to be used would be a decision for the Inspector, and that concurrent sessions on separate G2 issues could take place. It was understood that assistant inspectors were to be appointed. They would be re-appointed as additional inspectors in the event of concurrent sessions being programmed.

Regarding compulsory purchase orders, a CPO had been received regarding the Council's housing estate, and on counsel's advice objections had been lodged.

Regarding the CO2 campaign, at an informal liaison meeting with Essex County Council, Hertfordshire County Council and East Hertfordshire District Council at the end of April concern had been expressed at the lack of substance or profile of the campaign following its launch. Material was displayed on the Essex County Council website, but the message was confined to stating how many authorities were campaigning against the Airport. The portfolio holder was to report back at the next meeting on 9 July.

Members discussed the appropriate timing for seeking a presentation by BAA. The Interim Chief Executive said that a workshop could be a preferable vehicle, rather than a meeting of Development Control Committee. The Head of Planning and Housing Strategy said that during the consultation process so far approximately 450 representations had been received from Town and Parish Councils, and arrangements for the proposed presentation would depend on how many were involved.

Councillor R M Lemon thanked officers for their hard work which was appreciated by Members, and said that he had not realised how much had been done. An update in the Members' Bulletin would help to keep this matter in the public eye.

ACTION:

- i. An update on G2 to be included in the Members' Bulletin.
- ii. Officers to seek a presentation by BAA.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.