

Committee: Stansted Airport Advisory Panel

Agenda Item

Date: 24th June 2009

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Title: Stansted Generation 2 (G2) Inquiry.
Recent comments on start date

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Item for
information

Summary

- 1 This report, which is for the Panel's information, sets out the current positions of the main inquiry parties on when the G2 Inquiry should start.

Recommendations

That the Panel notes the views expressed on behalf of the main inquiry parties.

Background Papers

Stansted Generation 2 applications.

Appendices to this report.

Impact

Communication/Consultation	The District Council continues to work as part of the consortium of Councils putting forward a joint case at the inquiry.
Community Safety	None.
Equalities	None.
Finance	None.
Human Rights	None.
Legal implications	None.
Sustainability	Generation 2 would not be a sustainable development.
Ward-specific impacts	Generation 2 would have a significant adverse impact over a wide area.

Workforce/Workplace	Staff contribute to the work being done by and on behalf of the consortium of Councils.
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Situation

- 2 The latest official position is set out in Hazel Blears' open letter of 15th April 2009 (copy attached as an appendix). Prior to her resignation, she was to have announced the G2 Inquiry start date by the end of May. Nothing further was heard during the election purdah period, and a new Secretary of State, John Denham, has now been appointed. Currently, officers are having to work on a daily basis that the inquiry could start in 8 weeks, although this does seem unlikely.
- 3 BAA responded to Hazel Blears' letter on 20th May, having decided to apply to the Competition Appeal Tribunal to review the Competition Commission's decision to require the airport to be sold. A copy of BAA's letter is also attached. It is clear from BAA's letter that the G2 applications will not be withdrawn, but it is less clear when BAA wish the inquiry to start.
- 4 The consortium of Councils, Stop Stansted Expansion and Nabarro LLP (on behalf of the Airlines Consultative Committee) have also written to Hazel Blears, and copies of those letters are also attached. The broad thrust of all these letters is that the G2 applications should be withdrawn, but if they are not it would be a waste of time and money to hold the inquiry when ownership of the airport is still uncertain and the future intentions of the new owner are unknown.
- 5 The Panel will be updated if there are any announcements from the new Secretary of State by the time of the meeting. At the moment there is, of course, a lot of speculation about what could happen, but there is no substance.