

Minutes of previous meeting

Stansted Airport Advisory Panel, 4 August 2011, item 3

**STANSTED AIRPORT ADVISORY PANEL held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on 2 NOVEMBER 2010**

Present: Councillor D M Jones – Chairman.
Councillors J F Cheetham, R M Lemon and D G Perry.

Officers
in attendance: W Cockerell (Principal Environmental Health Officer), R
Harborough (Director of Public Services), J Pine
(Planning Policy/DC Liaison Officer) and R Procter
(Democratic Services Officer).

SAP19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Cant, E Godwin, G Sell and L Wells.

SAP20 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2010 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SAP21 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute SAP14 – G2

Councillor Cheetham asked whether it was known if BAA was intending to seek leave to appeal to the Supreme Court against the Court of Appeal's decision to uphold the Competition Commission's ruling on the ownership of the London airports. The Director of Public Services said BAA's decision had not been announced.

**SAP22 AIR QUALITY MONITORING, TAKELEY – REPLACEMENT OF
REDUNDANT PM10 (FINE PARTICLE) MONITOR**

The Principal Environmental Health Officer gave a verbal report on the equipment used by the Council to monitor air quality. He said the equipment was nearing the end of its life, and he therefore sought the Panel's guidance on whether it should be replaced. He also asked for the Panel's views on whether a different analyser capable of measuring smaller particles should be purchased.

The Principal Environmental Health Officer said results from all three air quality monitoring stations (one of which was a mobile unit) showed similar levels, and that this indicated that what was being measured were regional phenomena. There had never been a breach of the PM10 objective at Takeley.

Options which the Panel might consider therefore were to cease the Council's independent operation of fine particle monitoring; alternatively Members might wish to put the Council at the forefront of local authority air quality monitoring by replacing the equipment with a fine particle (2.5) analyser, at a cost of approximately £17,000.

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Councillor Cheetham thought it had been useful to have independent air quality monitoring, and she felt if money could be made available then the Council should purchase the finer particle monitor. She felt a mobile monitor would be more useful.

The Principal Environmental Health Officer explained that the mobile unit currently operated by the Council had been stationed at Stansted Hall for the last year. Members' guidance on the next location was also sought from the Panel.

The Director of Public Services said the capital programme was currently under some pressure and in setting next year's budget it would be necessary to look at priorities corporately. The question before the Panel was whether to feed into that process a spending bid regarding air quality monitoring equipment.

Councillor Lemon said he felt since the Airport was not going to go away, it was important the Council should keep monitoring the quality of air on an independent basis. Although recognising the financial constraints, if possible the Council should monitor the finer particles.

Councillor Cheetham asked whether Priors Wood Court was the right site for the equipment, in view of the fact that findings had not revealed any PM10 breach.

The Principal Environmental Health Officer said that location had been selected as the Council was already measuring noise there, and also had access to power and telephones at that site. Over the next couple of years officers could look at relocating this station, whilst avoiding duplicating the Stansted Airport Ltd monitoring.

Councillor Perry said it was necessary to be realistic, but agreed that in the short term the location of the mobile and static units could be changed.

Councillor Lemon said the cost over the lifetime of the equipment could be said to be only £1,700 a year, and if a decision was deferred, the purchase price was likely to increase.

The Chairman summarised the discussions. He said all Members present wished to retain independent air quality monitoring ability, and the budget was therefore the only issue. Officers should therefore make the bid which could only succeed or fail.

Officers confirmed grants had been available for capital equipment from DEFRA, but these would be conditional upon making a case that the purpose for which the expenditure was sought would be a useful addition to the national picture.

It was further agreed that officers should make a bid for funding new air quality monitoring equipment to DEFRA and to other capital funding schemes.

MATTERS THAT THE PANEL WOULD WISH TO RAISE AT STACC

The Panel considered the agenda for the meeting of Stansted Airport Consultative Committee which was to take place on 3 November. Councillor Cheetham said she would attend this meeting and invited Members to suggest items they wished her to raise.

Councillor Cheetham drew Members' attention to STACC agenda item 5, detailing a meeting of with the Department for Transport regarding a working group examining passenger experience. She said STACC had written to suggest that the working group should include representatives from local authorities. A reply had been received, indicating that membership would be kept under review. Although the Aviation Environment Federation fed back to the Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group, it was of concern to STACC that the government did not have local authority representation on the body looking at the passenger experience, as local infrastructure was relevant to that experience. She would liaise with Sir Alan Haselhurst MP regarding this situation.

Councillor Cheetham asked if Members wished her to raise any other matters. The Panel briefly discussed the collection of fines arising from airport-related parking. The monies were used for community projects but a percentage of funds were supposed to revert to noise and track-keeping work. Councillor Cheetham said she would try to establish whether this was still the case.

Councillor Cheetham said she also wished to raise with BAA the non-payment of compensation to home owners following permission for 8 – 15 mppa. Officers explained that the trigger for such compensation was an assessment of the effects following satellite 4 and the echo apron coming into use, and there was no sign yet of these developments being completed. Officers would circulate a note to the Panel members.

The meeting ended at 7.55pm.