

Committee: Stansted Airport Advisory Panel

Agenda Item

Date: 20th September 2012

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Title: Consultation on DfT's Draft Aviation Policy Framework, July 2012

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Key decision: **No**

Summary

1. In July, the DfT published a draft Aviation Policy Framework for consultation. The consultation period expires on 31st October 2012. This report invites the Panel to consider the Council's response. It is intended that the Council's response will be ratified by the Cabinet on 25th October.

Recommendations

2. That the Panel discusses and agrees the basis of the Council's response.

Financial Implications

3. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author.

Draft Aviation Policy Framework, DfT July 2012

Written statement on aviation dated 7th September 2012 by The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	The consultation period expires on 31 st October 2012
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None

Sustainability	Sustainability is a key issue for the new policy framework
Ward-specific impacts	There are district wide effects from the operation of Stansted Airport
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

6. In July, the DfT published a draft Aviation Policy Framework for consultation. The consultation period expires on 31st October 2012. The consultation requests that respondents answer a series of questions under chapter headings entitled i) *The benefits of aviation*, ii) *Climate change impacts*, iii) *Noise and other local environmental impacts*, and iv) *Working together*.
7. An electronic link to the document was previously supplied to Panel members, and some initial thoughts on how the Council might reply to the questions were circulated by Email on 23rd August. It is intended that the Council's response will be ratified by the Cabinet on 25th October.
8. When the draft Framework was published, the then Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening) indicated that one of the Government's top priorities was to maintain the UK's aviation hub status as set out in the National Infrastructure Plan. Accordingly, she said that the Government intended to issue a Call for Evidence on maintaining the UK's international connectivity later in the year. The initial thoughts on a response that were circulated to Panel members were on the basis that no further details about the Call for Evidence were available at that time.
9. Following the recent Cabinet reshuffle, the new Secretary of State for Transport (Patrick McLoughlin) has announced that the Government has asked Sir Howard Davies to chair an independent Commission tasked with identifying and recommending to the Government options for maintaining the UK's status as an international hub for aviation.
10. The Commission will:
 - i) examine the scale and timing of any requirement for additional capacity to maintain the UK's position as Europe's most important aviation hub, and
 - ii) identify and evaluate how any need for additional capacity should be met in the short, medium and long term.

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11. The Commission will provide an interim report to the Government no later than the end of 2013 setting out:

- i) its assessment of the evidence on the nature, scale and timing of the steps needed to maintain the UK's global hub status, and
- ii) the recommendation(s) for immediate actions to improve the use of existing runway capacity in the next five years - consistent with credible long term options.

12. The Commission will then publish by the summer of 2015 a final report for consideration by the Government and opposition containing:

- i) its assessment of the options for meeting the UK's international connectivity needs, including their economic, social and environmental impact,
- ii) its recommendation(s) for the optimum approach to meeting any need,
- iii) its recommendation(s) for ensuring that the need is met as expeditiously as practicable within the required timescale, and
- iv) materials to support the Government in preparing a National Policy Statement (on aviation) to accelerate the resolution of any future planning application(s).

13. A decision on whether to support any of the final report's recommendations will be made by the next Government. Further details on the Commission's membership and terms of reference will be provided shortly. The Government intends that the Commission's work will be fair and open, taking into account the views of passengers and residents as well as the aviation industry, business, local and devolved government and environmental groups.

14. Following the Secretary of State's recent announcement, the initial thoughts on a response have been modified accordingly. A revised version is attached as an appendix to this report.

Risk Analysis

15.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the Council's views will not be considered by the DfT and /or new Commission	1.	2.	Respond to the draft Aviation Policy Framework consultation within the agreed timescale, and

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			consider how to respond to the Commission when further details are known.
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1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.