

Committee: Planning Committee

Date:

Title: Petition regarding UTT/18/0460/FUL

4 July 2018

Report Author: Karen Denmark

Item for decision:
Yes

Summary

1. This report is submitted for members to consider a petition which has been forwarded to the Council. The petition is seeking an extension to the public speaking arrangements for application UTT/18/0460/FUL – Stansted Airport.

Recommendations

2. That the committee determine what level of public speaking there should be for UTT/18/0460/FUL.

Financial Implications

3. None arising from 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 of the report.

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	The report sets out the communication/consultation arrangements for inviting views on the planning application
Community Safety	None.
Equalities	None.
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	The Council's Public Speaking rules in its constitution set out the rights of members of the public to speak at Planning Committee meetings.
Sustainability	None.
Ward-specific impacts	The planning application has a specific impact for wards in the vicinity of the

	airport. It is likely that a greater number of petitioners and those wishing to speak will be from these wards.
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

6. The Council is currently considering an application for the increase in passenger numbers at Stansted Airport, reference UTT/18/0460/FUL. This application is the subject of a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA). Within the PPA is a timetable of events which initially envisaged the application coming before the Planning Committee on 18 July 2018, with two public speaking sessions to be held on 11 July 2018.
7. Due to further information needing to be submitted the initial timetable will need to be extended and negotiations with regards to a new timetable are currently ongoing.
8. Public consultation on the application has been carried out for an extended period of 9 weeks. The Council has received 828 emails in support of the application and 881 general representation letters, a mixture of support and objection.
9. The Council has been forwarded a 38 Degrees petition with around 100 signatures calling for an extension to the public speaking arrangements to at least 3 days. The petition states that this is important for two reasons – to allow those affected by the proposed significant development of the airport to speak and be heard, and to enable Council Members to ask questions and better understand the implications of their decision.
10. The public speaking rules for the Planning Committee are as follows:

Members of the public, representatives of town/ parish councils and the applicant/agent are permitted to speak in relation to a planning application.

The speakers will be invited to make their representations in the following order.

- 1. Non - committee councillor*
- 2. Supporter (up to 5 speakers)*
- 3. Objector (up to 5 speakers)*
- 4. Town /parish council representative*
- 5. Applicant or agent*

You will have 3 minutes to make your statement. You may only speak on the item indicated and your comments should be restricted to planning matters.

11. As stated above, two public speaking sessions were proposed. These would have been an afternoon and evening session to enable accessibility to a wider range of people. This is in addition to the normal public speaking arrangements on the day of the Planning Committee. Following the public speaking arrangements this would permit in excess of 100 public speakers. It is difficult to be sure as to how many people would wish to speak but considerably fewer than 100 people did so in the course of the recent consideration of the Local Plan.
12. Officers are aware that members of the Planning Committee would be expected to attend all proposed public speaking sessions as well as the Planning Committee itself. This is to ensure that all members have access to the same information. Increasing the number of public speaking sessions increases the risk of members not being available for a session(s). It would be important to ensure that any material new points raised by public speakers were drawn to the attention of all members of the Committee before it made its decision on the application. The author of the petition states that extending the public speaking session is important *to enable Council Members to ask questions and better understand the implications of their decision.*
13. The public speaking arrangements do not make provision for members to ask questions of speakers and this is not the usual practice.
14. However, there may be benefits in increasing the public speaking arrangements if there were significant numbers of people wishing to speak to ensure a wide range of issues can be presented. Whilst representations are still being assessed for the committee report, they have largely been limited to issues around noise, air quality, increase in flights, including night flights (not specifically part of this application), infrastructure such as roads and rail, and impacts on quality of life and/or health.

Risk Analysis

15.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That those who wish to make representations may not be able to bring issues which require consideration to the attention of the Committee.	1	2	Make a specific amount of time for public speaking available so that representations may be made to the Committee.

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.