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Luton Council
Town Hall
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VIA EMAIL

Date

14th February 2025

RE: Response to Luton Council Local Plan review Community Involvement Paper

Dear Mr Thom

Thank you for providing London Luton Airport Operations Ltd. with the opportunity to respond to your Local Plan review Community Involvement Paper. Please find our responses to our areas of interest below.

Vision & Objectives

This vision aims to balance economic prosperity with environmental sustainability and community well-being, ensuring Luton's long-term growth and success. London Luton Airport (LLA) supports Luton Council's vision for a sustainable, inclusive, and thriving town. As a key driver of economic growth, LLA is committed to playing an integral role in this vision by:

Fostering Connectivity: Enhancing transport links and ensuring efficient local, regional, national and international connections.

Creating Employment Opportunities: Supporting economic growth through job creation and skills development and local supply chain spend.

Supporting Sustainable Aviation Practices: Reducing emissions for airport operations and working with industry partners to reduce overall aviation emissions in line with Government's target of Net Zero aviation by 2050.

A specific objective should be included that highlights LLA as a key anchor institution within the town, driving economic growth, creating employment opportunities, and fostering innovation across the aviation, logistics, and service sectors.

Housing & Development

LLA acknowledges the need for sustainable housing growth to accommodate Luton's expanding workforce. However, new developments must consider airport safeguarding requirements, including existing and potential future flight paths and noise contour areas.

Developments within the Public Safety Zones (PBZ) will be required to follow the approach detailed in the Department for Transport Policy LLP34 regarding PBZs.

When building new homes near an airport, safeguarding requirements typically involve restrictions on building height, location within the designated "safeguarded zone," limitations on reflective materials to prevent pilot distraction, and considerations for potential bird attractants, all aimed at ensuring safe aircraft operations by preventing obstacles and hazards within the flight paths.

Housing developments should incorporate noise insulation measures to mitigate aircraft noise impact. LLA's safeguarding team will assess any developments that arise from the local plan that may affect the airport's safe operation and recommends close collaboration with Luton Council to ensure that housing locations and designs align with national and international aviation standards.

Economic Growth & Employment

LLA is a major employer in the region, supporting over 27,000 jobs either directly or through the supply chain. To further stimulate economic growth, we recommend:

- Strengthening active travel and public transport links between the airport, the town, and neighbouring conurbations.
- Encouraging aviation-related industries, logistics, and hospitality businesses to locate within Luton.
- Working together on skills and training initiatives to develop a local workforce that meets the needs of the aviation sector.

Addressing and Adapting to Climate Change

Luton Council has a key role in supporting climate action and sustainability. Here are several ways the council can contribute:

- Expanding Electric Vehicle Infrastructure - Facilitate the installation of EV charging points in and around the airport to support the transition to greener transport for staff and passengers.
- Boosting Renewable Energy and Grid Decarbonisation - Support the adoption of renewable energy sources and contribute to the wider effort of decarbonising the energy grid, which is critical for achieving net-zero emissions.
- Enhancing Sustainable Transport Links - Promote and invest in transport options for travel to and from the airport, reducing carbon footprints.
- Supporting the Future of Flight – Explore ways to convert Luton's waste into Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) to drive carbon reductions and create hundreds of jobs in Luton.

Sustainable development

LLA recognises the importance of sustainable development and is actively working towards Net Zero emissions for our own operations by 2040 and is fully aligned to the UK Government target for Net Zero aviation by 2050. Key focus areas as part of the LLA Net Zero Roadmap include transitioning to a low carbon fleet as well as improving energy efficiency and investing in renewable electricity sources.

Delivering Net Zero for aviation requires ambitious collaboration and innovation to deliver new fuels, technologies and approaches. We would encourage Luton Council to work with all stakeholders, including airline partners, suppliers and concessionaires, to scale up emissions reductions across scope 3 sources.

Areas could include:

- Supporting the airport to further incentivise the use of newer aircraft technology.
- Improving public transport to reduce congestion and reliance on private vehicles.

- Enhancing green buffer zones around the airport to support biodiversity but being mindful of the need for careful wildlife management to ensure safe aircraft operations.

Transport & Infrastructure

As Luton's largest transport hub, LLA plays a crucial role in regional connectivity. Council initiatives such the following could help improve connectivity:

- Expanding sustainable transport links to support the 365 days a year 24/7 operation of the airport, including enhancing timetables and service levels on existing bus and rail routes, as well as working with the airport to identify existing areas of potential demand.
- Enhancing pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and routes to and from the airport.
- Ensuring road networks around the airport support efficient allocation of road space and mitigating the impacts of congestion in residential areas and on arterial routes.

Community & Heritage

We are committed to fostering a positive relationship with the local community by supporting cultural initiatives, community projects, and education programmes. LLA is open to partnerships that promote Luton's rich heritage and enhance its reputation as a vibrant, globally connected town.

Call for Sites (Planning)

LLA supports strategic land allocation for aviation-related development to ensure the airport can continue to grow responsibly. We advocate for:

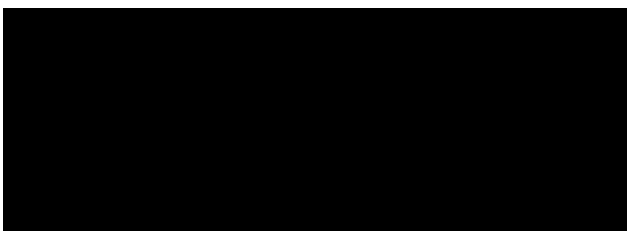
- Safeguarding land for airport expansion and associated infrastructure.
- Identifying commercial development opportunities that align with Luton's economic aspirations.
- Balancing land use between economic growth and environmental preservation.

General Feedback

To ensure the Local Plan reflects the needs of all stakeholders, we encourage continued engagement between LLA, Luton Council, and the wider community. We look forward to collaborating on long-term strategies that enhance Luton's economic prosperity, transport connectivity, and environmental sustainability.

London Luton Airport looks forward to being an active partner in shaping Luton's future and remains committed to working closely with Luton Council throughout the Local Plan development process.

Yours sincerely



Oliver Jaycock
Director of Corporate Affairs

