

**COUNCIL
25 JANUARY 2024**

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT: NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 4.8.12

The following motion has been submitted, due notice of which has been given in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.12.

Anti Luton-Airport Expansion Motion:

Council notes that on 13th of October, The Parliamentary- Under Secretary of State for Local Government and Building Safety, Lee Rowley, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and The Parliamentary- Under Secretary of State for Roads and Local Transport, Richard Holden MP, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport gave their approval for London Luton Airport Operations Ltd. (LLAOL) to expand from its current 18m passengers per annum to 19m passengers per annum.

We, the members of North Hertfordshire Council, express our firm opposition to this decision and to the further expansion of Luton Airport, currently being examined by National Infrastructure Planning, to 32m passengers per annum for the following reasons:

1. Environmental Concerns:

- a. The additional air traffic resulting from this expansion will contribute to poor air quality, posing significant health risks to residents; especially children, the elderly and individuals with respiratory conditions.
- b. Aviation is widely recognised as both one of the most carbon-intensive forms of transport and one of the most difficult to decarbonise. This means that aviation could well be the largest contributor to UK greenhouse gas emissions by 2050^{1,2}, particularly if demand continues to grow. Expansion of Luton Airport will lead to an increase in these emissions, further accelerating climate change, and violating our local and national sustainability goals. This is in direct conflict with NHC's Air Quality Action Plan (as published in February 2018) and our efforts to improve air quality and combat climate change.
- c. This expansion will inevitably lead to the destruction of natural habitats and green spaces. The loss of these areas not only harms local wildlife but also diminishes the overall quality of life for residents who rely on these spaces for recreation and relaxation.

2. Noise Pollution:

- a. The expansion of the airport will undoubtedly lead to increased noise pollution, disrupting the peace and tranquillity of our neighbourhoods. This will have adverse effects on the mental health and physical well-being of our residents, particularly those living within close proximity to the airport.
- b. Sleep disturbance, stress, and potential damage to children's educational outcomes are associated with increased noise pollution.

3. Traffic Congestion:

- a. Expansion at Luton Airport will lead to an increased number of both passengers and airport staff which will exacerbate traffic congestion on our roads, leading to longer commute times and decreased road safety.
- b. Our road networks are already strained, and the expansion will only exacerbate the problem.

4. Impact on Local Economy:

The economic benefits associated with the airport may benefit the residents of Luton but will likely have the inverse effect on our local economy in the long-term, due to people avoiding our towns altogether as a result of the traffic congestion and delays.

5. Alternatives and Mitigation:

- a. All relevant stakeholders (local authorities and local communities) should explore alternatives to airport expansion, such as investing in improved public transportation and sustainable travel options.
- b. A full, in-depth, robust and transparent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and an Environmental and Social Governance Report (ESG) has not been carried out on the commissioning authority (Luton Borough Council) and all the suppliers, which means that residents have no idea of the short, medium and long-term impact that an expanded Luton Airport will have on their local environment.

Reference:

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/letter-international-aviation-and-shipping/>
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8826/>

The Council resolves that:

The Leader and the Deputy Leader write jointly to the Leader, Deputy Leader, Luton Borough Council's Chief Executive, the Managing Director of Luton Rising (the trading name of LLAOL), the Leaders/Deputy Leaders of all surrounding local government authorities, all relevant (local) members of parliament, the Secretary of State and the Shadow Secretary of State for Transport clearly stating that we as a Council are opposed to any further expansion of Luton Airport.

Proposed by: Councillor Chris Lucas

Seconded by: Councillor Sam Collins.