

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**FROM: Acting Head of Planning Policy and  
Economic Development**

**REPORT NUMBER    **F46****

**TO: STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

**DATE OF MEETING    29 June 2006**

**BAA STANSTED AIRPORT, PLANNING APPLICATION TO INTENSIFY USE OF THE  
EXISTING RUNWAY (G1)**

1.    **SUMMARY**

In May 2006 Babergh received a consultation from Uttlesford District Council to advise that they have received a planning application from BAA Stansted for expansion of existing airport air traffic volumes. This application is for increased use of the **existing** runway. Therefore, it is pursuant to the pre-application proposals that Babergh was consulted on last year. The report taken to Strategy Committee on 15 September 2005 (Paper E138) refers. This current report summarises the application submitted, its impact and further documents and studies that will also be received by Uttlesford before they determine the application. It recommends a response in line with Babergh's previous responses and seeks to streamline procedures for responding to subsequent BAA Stansted consultations.

2.    **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1    That the response attached as Appendix A be agreed for submission to Uttlesford District Council.
- 2.2    That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Mike Hammond) in consultation with the Chairman of Strategy Committee, to respond (in line with previous resolutions on airport expansion by BAA Stansted) to subsequent consultations in relation to this application and other BAA Stansted related matters.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter.

3.    **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1    This report raises no financial implications.

4.    **KEY INFORMATION**

- 4.1    This consultation involves the actual planning application for the airport growth proposals that Strategy Committee considered last September. The application itself does not differ in any significant way from the pre-application proposals put to the Council last year in terms of the scale/nature of proposed growth.

- 4.2 The application ref. UTT/0717/06/FUL seeks to vary the existing approval in respect of air traffic movements and the number of passengers per annum; but does not propose to change any of the physical development permitted by the earlier consent. However, in a covering letter BAA say that there may be later applications which add additional facilities to the site, such as a new hotel and that revised locations may be proposed for car parking already approved.
- 4.3 In a recent briefing to Suffolk Planning Officers, BAA stated that currently 23 million passengers per annum pass through Stansted. This application seeks a revised limit of 35 million passengers per year (40% increase on the 25 million limit of the existing planning consent) and for Air Traffic Movements (ATM's) an increase from 241,000 to 264,000 per year (9.5%). The additional flights will be in between the existing peaks of take-offs and landings.
- 4.4 BAA is also undertaking a Health Impact Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal of the proposal, which will be submitted later. Uttlesford DC will commission studies on air noise and air movements from independent consultants and traffic impacts from the County Council. These studies will inform their decision making process.
- 4.5 As stated previously in Paper E138 to Strategy Committee, BAA argue that the new proposals will have reduced, or similar, environmental impacts (airborne noise, air quality and road traffic) to those that have already been permitted (up to 25 million passengers per year). On the other hand, the benefits to Babergh are not detailed or quantified and the economic benefits are considered on a regional basis rather than by district. For example as one measure, at present 64 Babergh residents are directly employed on the airport and because this is below 1% of the total workforce no detailed forecasting for Babergh is carried out. Other economic benefits tend to be less easy to quantify so tangibly.
- 4.6 A large Environmental Statement accompanies the application, there are 16 volumes covering issues ranging from air noise to economic effects, archaeology, landscape, waste and construction. Uttlesford DC is organising a series of special development control meetings to brief councillors on different aspects of the application and all these meetings are open to the public. It is intended that Uttlesford DC officers considering the application will make a recommendation at the end of September 2006. They have asked for a response from Babergh by 30 June, although Uttlesford DC officers confirm a response by end of July would still fit with their timetable for determining this application.
- 4.7 The planning application can be viewed on the Uttlesford DC web site [www.uttlesford.gov.uk](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk) and on BAA's web site <http://future.stanstedairport.com>. A CD version of the planning application and supporting documents is loaded on the computer in the Members' Room.
- 4.8 Since the current application is broadly similar to the pre-application proposals on which Babergh expressed concerns last September, it is logical and consistent to express a similar view now. Some Members also expressed opposition to air travel growth in general, particularly on sustainability grounds. Whether there are any benefits to Babergh or not, the focus has been on any possible adverse impacts. Accordingly it is suggested that Members would wish to object to this application (Recommendation 2.1 refers).
- 4.9 Members are also reminded that, as pointed out at Strategy Committee in March this year (Paper E290, 9 March 2006), there will be numerous consultations emerging from BAA Stansted about its various proposals for airport expansion during the course of this year. Accordingly, rather than prepare a report similar to this every time, it would be expedient for officers, in consultation with the Chairman of Strategy Committee, to respond along the lines as set out in this report to consultations from outside bodies on planning proposals, hence Recommendation 2.2.

5. **APPENDICES**

(A) Proposed letter of response to Uttlesford DC together with the Council's letter of 20 September 2005 to BAA Stansted Airport Ltd.

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO:**

None.

**CONTACT:** Robert Paddison

**DIRECT LINE:** 01473 825881



2004-2005  
Supporting People  
2006-2007  
Waste and Recycling  
2006-2007  
Culture and Sport for  
Hard to Reach Groups

**Mike Hammond** Appendix A  
**Corporate Director**  
**Babergh District Council**  
Corks Lane, Hadleigh, Ipswich IP7 6SJ  
DX NO: 85055 Exchange: Babergh  
Main Switchboard: **01473 822801**  
Website: [www.babergh.gov.uk](http://www.babergh.gov.uk)

---

Executive Director (Development Services)  
Uttlesford District Council  
Council Offices  
London Road  
SAFFRON WALDEN  
Essex  
CB11 4ER

Your Ref:  
My Ref: MH/HT  
Please ask for: Mike Hammond  
Phone Direct Line: **01473 825750**   
Fax: 01473 825742  
Email: [mike.hammond@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:mike.hammond@babergh.gov.uk)

---

29 June 2006

Dear Sir

**PLANNING APPLICATION REF UTT/0717/06/GUL  
(GROWING STANSTED AIRPORT ON THE EXISTING RUNWAY – G1)**

Thank you for your letter of 9 May consulting this local authority on its views on this matter. Please accept this letter as the formal response of Babergh District Council.

This Council has previously advised BAA Stansted that it has reservations relating to the principle of the expansion of Stansted Airport (copy of letter of 20 September 2005 attached). In summary, the specific points of concern that this Council has are:

1. Concerns over the wider environmental impact of the proposals.
2. The lack of clarity on alleged economic benefits of the proposals to Babergh.
3. Concerns over the impact of night flying over the Babergh district.

Babergh is aware that a sustainability appraisal and health impact assessment of the proposal will be submitted by BAA and that your Council has commissioned other reports.

I would be grateful if you would advise me as soon as the results of these studies are available.

Yours faithfully

Mike Hammond  
Corporate Director


c.c. Rich Cooke, Robert Paddison

---

Chief Executive: Patricia Rockall

Corporate Director: Mike Hammond

Corporate Director: Helen Style

 Minicom: 01473 825878 (Minicom is a text phone service for the deaf and hard of hearing)



2002-2003  
Neighbourhood Renewal  
2004-2005  
Supporting People

**Mike Hammond**  
**Corporate Director**  
**Babergh District Council**  
Corks Lane, Hadleigh, Ipswich IP7 6SJ  
DX NO: 85055 Exchange: Babergh  
Main Switchboard: **01473 822801**  
Website: [www.babergh-south-suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.babergh-south-suffolk.gov.uk)

Mr. Terry Morgan,  
Managing Director,  
BAA Stansted Airport Limited,  
Enterprise House,  
Stansted Airport, Essex.  
CM24 1QW

Your Ref:  
My Ref: MH/HT  
  
Please ask for: Mike Hammond  
Phone Direct Line: **01473 825750** ☎  
Fax: 01473 825742  
Email: [mike.hammond@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:mike.hammond@babergh.gov.uk)

20 September 2005

Dear Mr. Morgan,

**GROWING STANSTED AIRPORT ON THE EXISTING RUNWAY – CONSULTATION JULY – OCTOBER 2005**

Thank you for your letter of 27 July 2005 consulting this local authority on its views on this matter.

In response, please accept this letter as the formal response of Babergh District Council. This response was agreed by the Council's Strategy Committee at its meeting held on 15 September 2005. It focuses on the key issues as they affect Babergh District and its residents.


The points the Council wishes to raise with you are as follows:

1. The Council understands that the authority responsible for design and use of airspace, that is NATS, is separate by organisation and function from the airport itself. However, in order to ascertain the likely impact associated with overflying of areas of Babergh District and its impacts on the quality of life enjoyed by its residents, as a priority, details of the flightpaths will be needed for public inspection ideally before a planning application is submitted. The technical information compiled for this exercise, together with non-technical summaries, would be required. We trust that you will liaise closely with NATS on this issue and please ask them to ensure that the information is easily accessible as early as possible.
2. Babergh would wish to express concern if there were to be any increase in noise from nighttime flying arising from these proposals. In order to safeguard the interests of residents, and in response to both these proposals and the Department of Transport's proposals on Night Flying Restrictions, Babergh believes:-
  - ❑ The use of quieter aircraft at night should be actively encouraged.
  - ❑ The period covered by movement limits and noise quotas should be extended to 2300-0700 hrs (currently 2330-0600 hrs), subject to noise levels during this extended period not exceeding existing night noise levels.

Chief Executive: Patricia Rockall

Corporate Director: Mike Hammond

Corporate Director: Helen Style

 Minicom: 01473 825878 (Minicom is a text phone service for the deaf and hard of hearing)

3. The Council also appreciates that Stansted airport operates a comprehensive surface level transport strategy, parts of which are already being implemented. This is to be welcomed and the Council considers it of the utmost importance that the airport continues to afford this matter a very high priority. The strategy should continue to develop and promote sustainable travel patterns for all using the airport with an associated objective of ensuring efficient travel between it and the rest of the region.

Whilst it is clear that some impact analysis work has already been carried out to assess comparative transport impacts between the years 2004, 2010 and 2015, it is considered essential that some impact analysis work is carried out at a more strategic level. Given the scale and nature of the airport and its importance in the eastern region, a broader level study would be appropriate in helping to inform the emerging East of England Plan, which also contains substantial proposals for growth in the region through to 2021. It is hoped that this work would allow for a meaningful consideration of transport impacts affecting Babergh and, in particular, the A131 through the market town of Sudbury, during the period of proposed airport expansion and beyond. This Council requests that such research is carried out prior to submission of the proposed planning application to Uttlesford District Council.

4. The Council recognises the benefits of air travel, that the demand for it is growing and that Stansted airport is tasked by the Government with playing its part in facilitating this growth among all the main airports serving the south-east. It also recognises the economic and social benefits that may accrue. These matters have been taken into account in the Council's consideration of, and conclusions on, this consultation exercise. Given a development of this scale, nature and regional importance, the need to identify the forecast impacts rigorously and accurately is paramount. Once identified, the need for appropriate and comprehensive mitigation measures needs to be identified and delivered to the appropriate standards and within a reasonable timeframe.

In conclusion, the Council has reservations relating to the principle of Stansted airport expansion as described generally in the current consultation document. These reservations relate to:

- ❑ concerns over the wider environmental impact of the proposals
- ❑ lack of clarity on the alleged economic benefits of the proposals to Babergh
- ❑ concerns on the impact of night flying over the Babergh District.

Finally, and further to your letter of 8 August, Babergh would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss your proposals and plans for the development of Stansted. Babergh will consult with neighbouring authorities as to whether they wish to attend any such meeting. Once we have their response we will contact you again in order to arrange a convenient date.

I trust the Council's response is both clear and concise. If you would like to discuss this response further, please contact me and I will be pleased to do so with you.

Yours sincerely,


Mike Hammond,  
Corporate Director.

---

Chief Executive: Patricia Rockall

Corporate Director: Mike Hammond

Corporate Director: Helen Style

 Minicom: 01473 825878 (Minicom is a text phone service for the deaf and hard of hearing)