



Press Release. April 11th. 2022

Luton Airport being levelled down by Michael Gove MP Secretary of State for The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities* over the expansion of Luton Airport numbers to 19million pa?

This is potentially a significant blow to the expansion plans of London Luton Airport Operations Limited and the Airport owners Luton Rising, not only to the increase in passenger numbers to 19 million but also to the variation of a number of prior planning conditions which they hoped to avoid, in particular the day and night noise contours; car parking management and travel plans.

The grounds on which the application has been called in refer to the extent to which the proposed development is (i) consistent with Government policies for meeting the challenge of climate change and conserving and enhancing the natural environment and (ii) consistent with the development plan for the area. The inspectors will also take into account any other matters they consider relevant.

In technical terms, calling in an application means that the application will be referred to the Secretary of State instead of being dealt with by the Local Planning Authority (that being Luton Borough Council who own the airport).

An official inquiry will be held where all evidence will be reviewed at a date to be announced. Arrangements for which will be made by the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol.

Commenting positively on the decision, Phil Waters, Chair of the Harpenden Society said:

“Hundreds of objectors argued that growing the airport in the middle of a climate emergency was unwarranted and didn’t fulfil a number of national and local planning conditions. Despite this, the application was approved by Luton Borough Council, largely because of its continuing conflict of interest as the principle financial beneficiary of the airport’s expansion. So, it’s absolutely right that this application has been called in so the Secretary of State can independently assess whether the application can be allowed to proceed. This is particularly important given the very recent reminder from the United Nations that there must be ‘rapid, deep and immediate’ cuts in carbon dioxide emissions. We are very appreciative of the efforts of local campaign groups including LADACAN and

HarpendenSky and local MPs and local councils for their considerable efforts to draw the Secretary of State's attention to the very real damage further growth at Luton Airport will have."

*This decision was made by the Minister of State for Housing, Stuart Andrew MP, on behalf of the Secretary of State, and signed on his behalf.

Further information from:

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