

REPORT TO:	Environmental and Development Services Committee	AGENDA ITEM: 7
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REPORT FROM:	Director of Operations	OPEN
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SUBJECT:	"Developing a Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation: Scoping Document" Consultation	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All Wards	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That the proposed responses to the questions posed by the Department for Transport, as set out in Annexe A of this report, be accepted as the Council's response to the consultation exercise.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To obtain a Council response to the Department for Transport's (DfT) "Developing a Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation: Scoping Document" consultation exercise.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The Government is reviewing national aviation policy with the objective of developing a long term, high level framework for aviation. This will replace the 2003 Air Transport White Paper, which sets out the current approach.

3.2 To date there has been high level consultation with representatives of the aviation industry and other interested parties. This has formed the basis for the Scoping Document, which has been made available for general consultation and may be viewed at <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/2011-09/> . Following consideration of responses to this exercise, the Government intends to prepare a "Draft Policy Framework" which will be the subject of further consultation from March 2012, with a view to formal adoption in March 2013.

3.3 The Scoping Document says that that the Policy Framework will:

- Set out Government aims for aviation and the parameters within which they can be delivered
- Take account of the positive and negative impacts of aviation and achieve a sustainable balance
- Integrate aviation with wider Government objectives including delivering sustainable economic growth, combating climate change and protecting the local environment
- Build consensus among those who rely on and are affected by aviation
- Provide the industry with clarity

3.3 The document sets out the strategic context within which aviation policy must be developed and explains the nature of the tensions between competing objectives. This is followed by a series of questions on three themes:

- Aviation and the economy
- Aviation and climate change
- Aviation and the local environment

3.4 In relation to the economy, the document considers the need to prioritise limited available flight capacity; the importance of air freight; the importance of the aerospace industry; the question as to whether hub airports represent the most appropriate way to meet UK connectivity needs; the conditions needed for regional airports to flourish; improving the resilience of airports to disruptive events; and making better use of capacity through the use of new technology and new operational procedures.

3.5 On climate change, the document considers greenhouse gas emissions from aviation including the role of EU Emissions Trading Scheme; the contribution of operational and technological efficiency improvements, including biofuels; the question as to whether, in seeking to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the 2008 Climate Change Act, emissions from international flights should be taken into account; and the potential offered by broadband to reduce the need for business travel.

3.6 On the local environment, the Document considers the effectiveness of current airport noise control and mitigation regimes; alternative approaches including the setting of “noise envelopes” around airports within which growth would be possible; potential for noise reduction through improved operational procedures and technological advances; and the regulation of pollution including particulate emissions.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications for the Council.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 Strategic air transport policy has implications for the following themes of the Corporate Strategy:

- “Sustainable growth and opportunity” in that East Midlands Airport is important to the local economy as an employer in its own right, as an attraction to business investment and as a tourism asset.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 Strategic air transport policy has implications for the following themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy:

- “Vibrant communities” in that air transport is a significant generator of carbon emissions and noise generated by aircraft can impact on local amenity.
- “Sustainable development” in that East Midlands Airport is important to the local economy as an employer in its own right, as an attraction to business investment in the region and as a tourism asset.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 The Council has long recognised the value of East Midlands Airport to the local economy, but at the same time has sought to encourage the airport to adopt and

extend measures to protect the amenity and health of local residents in relation to noise impacts, particularly at night.

7.2 The national policy framework will help to determine the role of regional airports over coming decades and as such will strongly influence the future development of airports throughout the country, including East Midlands Airport. Proposed answers to the questions posed by the Scoping Document are set out at Annexe A. It should be noted that the Document indicates that respondents need only answer questions where they feel it appropriate to do so.

8.0 Background Papers

“Developing a Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation – Scoping Document”

Department for Transport,
March 2011

“East Midlands Airport Masterplan – 2006”

East Midlands Airport, 2006

“The Future of Air Transport White Paper”

Department for Transport,
December 2003

“East Midlands Airport Noise Action Plan”

East Midlands Airport, 2009