

REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 11
DATE OF MEETING:	28th SEPTEMBER 2017	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND PLANNING SERVICES	OPEN
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SUBJECT:	BEYOND THE HORIZON – THE FUTURE OF UK AVIATION	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS17

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

(i) establish a Member Working Panel to formulate and submit a response to the current and planned Department for Transport consultations on the proposed “Aviation Strategy for Britain”;

(ii) Members Working Panel to constitute of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Environmental and Development Services Committee, Ward Member Councillor John Harrison and an Opposition Member.

(iii) to present the initial response to a future meeting of this Committee for information.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 The purpose of the report is to establish arrangements for the formulation of Council responses to current and planned Department for Transport consultations on the proposed “Aviation Strategy for Britain” and to seek approval for a members working group to determine the Council response to the current consultation “Beyond the Horizon – The future of UK aviation”.

3.0 Executive Summary

3.1 This report sets out the proposed aim, objectives, policy principles and policy tests contained in the Department for Transport consultation document “Beyond the Horizon – The future of UK aviation”. It explains that this represents the first stage in a process and will be followed by further themed consultations. In recognition of the significance and complexity of the issues raised, the report proposes the establishment of a Member Working Panel to consider the current and forthcoming consultations and to formulate recommendations to be presented to future meetings of this Committee.

4.0 Detail

4.1 As the first step in the creation of a new Aviation Strategy for Britain, the Department for Transport has published the document “Beyond the Horizon – The Future of UK Aviation” for consultation. The strategy will set out the long-term direction of aviation policy making for 2050 and beyond with the following aim:

“To achieve a safe, secure and sustainable aviation sector that meets the needs of consumers and a global, outward-looking Britain”

4.2 The strategy will have six objectives:

- help the aviation industry work for its customers
- ensure a safe and secure way to travel
- build a global and connected Britain
- encourage competitive markets
- support growth while tackling environmental impacts
- develop innovation, technology and skills

4.3 The consultation document proposes the following policy principles:

- consumer focused – it will put passengers and businesses at the centre of everything we do,
- market driven – it will emphasise the role of government as an enabler, helping to make the market work effectively
- evidence led – it will target intervention on specific problems which government can address, avoiding activity that does not respond to a clear problem .

4.4 These principles will be applied to the following policy tests:

- what is the rationale for action?
- what is government’s role?
- what does the evidence say?
- have all the options been considered?
- what is the effectiveness of any proposed action?”

4.5 This exercise represents the first stage in a process and will be followed by the publication of a series of themed consultation papers during 2017 and 2018, addressing the six objectives identified in para. 4.2. The final Aviation Strategy is to be published by the end of 2018.

4.6 The document considers the issues surrounding all aspects of aviation in broad terms and poses a series of questions relating to:

- whether the government is looking at the right issues
- whether the issues are being addressed in a logical order
- whether the proposed timetable is reasonable
- how the government can best involve people and organisations during the consultation process”

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council.

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 Aviation has implications for the following key aims of the Corporate Plan:

- “Enhance environmental standards”: aircraft movements and airport activity can potentially have environmental and amenity implications in terms of noise, air quality, and surface transport.
- “Maintain a skilled workforce”: East Midlands Airport, related businesses clustered close to that site, aircraft parts manufacturers within and close to the district and the local tourism industry provide employment for South Derbyshire residents.
- “Help to influence and develop the infrastructure for economic growth”, “work to attract further inward investment” and “work to maximise the employment, training and leisure uses of the National Forest by residents and increase the visitor spend by tourists”: South Derbyshire District Council is a consultee on planning applications affecting the East Midlands Airport site and is assisting in the planning of the Infinity Park development on the southern fringe of Derby, which may contribute toward supporting aviation-related employment for South Derbyshire residents. The presence of East Midlands Airport is a key selling point in attracting inward investment of all types to the district and could also potentially contribute toward growing the local tourism economy, including within the National Forest as it develops as a visitor destination.

7.0 Community Implications

7.1 Aviation has implications for the following themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy:

- “Healthier Communities”: aircraft noise and emissions can potentially be harmful to human health.
- “Sustainable Communities”: aviation activity can impact upon the environment in terms of noise and emissions, but can also provide economic and employment benefits, often accompanied by training provision, at airports and in other related businesses including logistics, aircraft parts manufacture and tourism. Airport surface access strategies can improve opportunities to travel using non-car modes.

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8.0 Conclusions

8.1 The matters raised by this consultation are substantive, complex, wide-ranging and, in parts, highly technical. In order to ensure meaningful member input, it is proposed that a Member Working Panel be appointed to formulate recommendations for consideration at future meetings of this Committee. This approach has been successfully employed in addressing previous consultations relating to national aviation policy and the future development of East Midlands Airport.

8.2 The Committee is asked to confirm the Members as per an earlier Panel that existed for this issue in order to take advantage of their experience and knowledge in this area.

- 8.3 As the closing date for responses to the current consultation is 13th October 2017, it is proposed that the Member Working Panel arrange to meet in the near future to consider the document and formulate the Council response.

9.0 Background Papers

“Beyond the Horizon - the future of UK aviation”

Dept. for Transport, 2017