

Mayor's Office

Sunil Sahadevan

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Your Ref: 07/01510/VAR

Our ref: PDU1962LF04

Date: 30 July 2008

Dear Sir

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended); Greater London Authority Act 1999; Town & Country Planning (Mayor of London) Order 2000; London City Airport

I write further to the letter of my Head of Planning Decisions dated 8 April 2008 setting out a number of concerns relating to the application made to Newham Council by London City Airport under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to vary conditions 13 and 15 of the outline planning permission, (N/82/104, dated 23 May 1985, as previously varied by the Secretary of State on 26 September 1991, and by Newham Council on 21 July 1998 and 11 July 2007), to allow up to 120,000 total aircraft movements per annum.

I have now had an opportunity to consider the earlier material and the new material submitted by RPS and notified to the Greater London Authority on 16 April 2008. I have also considered an officers' report on the proposals (reference PDU/1962/03), a copy of which is attached.

I firstly stress that I strongly recognise and appreciate the contribution London City Airport makes to London's world city status, and the benefits the airport offers to the City and Canary Wharf. I also recognise and fully support the economic contribution and employment opportunities it provides for Newham residents. These would be enhanced by the current proposals, and as such I offer support for the expansion sought by London City Airport.

I do though believe that given the airport's central location and the potential adverse impact any further expansion beyond that currently sought would be likely to generate, the airport may be reaching its natural desirable size, and any expansion beyond the 120,000 movement level could be extremely difficult to justify or support.

I am also concerned that the current proposals would effectively blight a significant number of sites within the expanded public safety zones which are earmarked for regeneration and I expect London City Airport to discuss this with the London Development Agency as a matter of urgency.

Finally, I am also concerned that the public safety zones the current proposals would require might prejudice the town planning case for the Thames Gateway Bridge. I understand that the Department for Transport has recently commissioned the National Air Traffic Services (NATS) to carry out a risk assessment of this aspect of the proposals, and that this study will be available shortly.

I therefore request that Newham Council defers its decision on the current application until the results of this study are made available and can be assessed, so that all parties involved can be assured that any expansion would not unacceptably impact on the proposed bridge. Officers from Transport for London will attend the 30 July Development Control Committee meeting, and I have asked them to pursue this point, and be available to answer any questions Committee Members may have on this matter.

I shall therefore be writing separately to the Government Office for London, withdrawing earlier objections, and confirming my support for the current proposals. I will though, also ask the Secretary of State to call in the application should Newham Council resolve to approve the application before the results of the NATS study have been fully considered, and to convene a planning inquiry where this strategic matter can be clarified and discussed.

I trust the points raised in this letter and the attached report are clear, but if you wish to discuss any of the matters raised, please do not hesitate to contact the case officer Lyndon Fothergill whose contact details are provided below.

Yours sincerely



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

Cc: Sir Robin Wales, Mayor of Newham
John Biggs, AM, London Assembly Constituency Member
Nicky Gavron AM, Chair of London Assembly Planning and Housing Committee
John Pierce and Ian McNally, GOL
Colin Lovell and Carine Maraval, TfL
Dean Williams and Helen Wood, LDA

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