

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Environmental Health Portfolio Holder 24th October 2006
AUTHOR/S: Chief Environmental Health Officer

CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO THE HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) FOR STANSTED AIRPORT GENERATION 1, APPLICATION TO REMOVE CONSTRAINTS ON UTILISING CAPACITY OF EXISTING RUNWAY

Purpose

1. This report outlines the suggested response from South Cambridgeshire District Council to the Health Impact Assessment for the Generation 1 planning application for Stansted Airport, which removes certain constraints on utilising capacity of the existing runway.

Background

2. The District Council has been consulted on a planning application from the British Airports Authority (BAA) and Stansted Airport Ltd. The application has been submitted to Uttlesford DC. At the time the Council considered its response (13th July) the Health Impact Assessment had only just arrived at the Council and hence did not form part of the original report.
3. Health impact assessment is a practical approach that determines how a proposal will affect people's health. Recommendations to 'increase the positive' and 'decrease the negative' aspects of the proposal are produced to inform decision-makers. Although HIA's are not a mandatory requirement of the planning system, it is good practice to submit an HIA for large applications.
4. The Stansted HIA has looked at the health impact to the local population only (i.e. those people living around the airport). It has not looked at the potential health impacts to the surrounding areas such as South Cambridgeshire. This approach is reasonable given the nature of the proposed development and the magnitude of the effects.

Considerations

5. The HIA is comprehensive and covers all the appropriate health domains.
6. Community Perception
 - (i) The perception of the community surrounding the proposed development site is that it will be the more physical manifestations of the proposed development, i.e. noise, air quality, that will affect people's health, rather than its socio-economic implications.
 - (ii) This community perception has been taken onboard by the consultants in preparing the HIA.
7. Principal health determinants and pathways
 - (i) The HIA contains a table outlining the principal health determinants and potential implications both positive and negative.
 - (ii) The table lists the adverse effects as

- Increased air traffic movements (ATM)
 - Increased road traffic
 - Community disruption caused by increased passenger numbers
- (iii) The beneficial effects are
- Increased passenger numbers leading to increased jobs
 - Enhancement of service provision through increased social capital

8. The HIA has taken these impacts into account and has suggested suitable mitigation measures. It is worth noting that none of the impacts are predicted to affect South Cambridgeshire residents.

Conclusions of HIA

9. The HIA concludes, “*the impact on the health of the affected population is slight*”, where the affected population is defined as the residential population close to the airport.

Options

10. Evaluated as part of the report

Implications

11. According to the HIA the health impacts on the surrounding area are slight. Although not considered, the health impacts on South Cambridgeshire are also likely to be minimal. These minimal implications are likely to be:

- (a) Traffic
 - (i) Increased traffic using the M11 to get to Stansted Airport
- (b) Air Quality
 - (i) Increase in ATM above South Cambridgeshire
- (c) Noise
 - (i) Increase in ATM above South Cambridgeshire

12. Financial	None
Legal	None
Staffing	None
Risk Management	None
Equal Opportunities	None

Consultations

13. South Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust

Effect on Annual Priorities and Corporate Objectives

14. Affordable Homes	Increase pressure on availability of housing in general due to new employment at Stansted Airport
Customer Service	None
Northstowe and other growth areas	Increase pressure on availability of housing in general due to new employment at Stansted Airport. Increase in Traffic around growth areas as people travel to and from Stansted for both work and leisure
Quality, Accessible Services	None
Village Life	None

Sustainability	None
Partnership	None

Conclusions/Summary

15. South Cambridgeshire District Council has already commented on the main Environmental Impact Assessment for the application and as such supports the application. The Health Impact Assessment submitted with the application has not identified any significant health impacts for South Cambridgeshire. The issue of potential noise impact has already been before the Council (13 July 2006) and concluded that the noise levels would remain below Government and World Health Organisation guidelines.

Recommendations

16. The Portfolio Holder is recommended that no further comments need to be added to the decision reached by Cabinet on the 13 July 2006.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: Cabinet report 13 July 2006 – Stansted airport generation 1 consultation on planning application to remove constraints on utilising capacity of existing runway.

Health Impact Assessment of Stansted Generation 1, Final Report June 2006

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