

Written Responses to Questions not put at the Council meeting on 30/11/23

Question e. from Cllr Lina Nieto

Can the Leader assure us this Council will take appropriate action to address South Cambridgeshire residents' concerns about noise pollution in the district given the expansion of Luton Airport?

Response from Cllr Henry Batchelor:

The council has previously been consulted on the proposal of changing aircraft stacking areas affecting South Cambridgeshire. A copy of the response is available on our website.

Following a trial implementation of the airspace change proposal, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), who are the regulators for flight paths, are undertaking a post implementation review following the change to assess its impact. Their review includes Noise.

Whilst the council is happy to review any technical reports, if requested to by the CAA, this is an incredibly complex subject area with multitude factors and is beyond the expertise of the council's specialists and requires detailed knowledge and training in acoustics. Technical matters that would be analysed include flight paths, aircraft movement times, the type/size of aircraft, stack height of planes and meteorological conditions to name just a few of the considerations.

Aircraft noise is exempt from statutory nuisance, ie cannot be enforced by a local authority.

Question f. from Cllr Mark Howell

Does the Leader and the administration still believe that the C2C busway plans should proceed?

Response from Cllr Brian Milnes:

As we witness the regression towards pre-pandemic levels of daily congestion in and around the City, it is vital that we provide the transport links which our new and existing communities need. It is our obligation to reliably connect our homes, work places, schools, hospitals, community centres and retail locations.

Specifically, the proposed housing at Bourn Airfield and employment and education at West Cambridge are dependent on the enhanced access which the C2C scheme will provide, whilst future growth that the Local Plan proposes would be undermined by worsening congestion and pollution without alternatives being put in place.

The Cambourne to Cambridge project forms part of an integrated, sustainable transport network being drawn up by the GCP to help cut congestion and improve air

quality across Greater Cambridge. It has been developed and independently tested over many years.

We believe it is a vital piece of infrastructure for our existing residents and for those who want to move to South Cambridgeshire in the years to come.

Question g. from Cllr Tom Bygott

Is the Leader confident that the budget gap for CSET will be found – or does the Leader believe it is time to think about alternative proposals?

Response from Cllr Brian Milnes:

The CSET scheme was designed to alleviate the increasing congestion along the length of the A1307, and has, for example, just seen the opening of the new Bartlow roundabout which has been locally welcomed as a major safety and traffic enhancement intervention.

The second phase of CSET was to provide connectivity for the rapidly growing major BioScience centres in the area with sustainable robust public transport into CBC and the City. The GCP paused this phase against the backdrop of rising inflation, which is impacting its programme locally, as well as other projects around the country.

An on-road alternative would not offer the capacity to meet future growth needs. The GCP – and its partners – are continuing to seek additional funding to deliver phase two.