

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**CABINET MEETING**
22nd March 2007**South Staffordshire District Council**
Wolverhampton Airport Policy Area- Issues and Options Consultation

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	A Better Environment
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Managing the Local Environment
KEY PRIORITY:	Forward Planning
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Mrs Anne Hingley
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
CONTACT OFFICER:	Rebecca Mayman– Ext 2554 Rebecca.Mayman@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	Appendix 1: Representations submitted to South Staffordshire District Council.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the Cabinet's endorsement of Officer representations submitted on the Issues and Options Consultation Paper for the Wolverhampton Airport Policy Area Development Plan Document.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to **DECIDE:**

- 2.1 **The representations submitted by the Head of Planning, Health and Environment to South Staffordshire District Council, on the Wolverhampton Airport Policy Area Development Plan Document Issues and Options Paper, as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report, be endorsed.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will recall the Cabinet report dated 21st December 2006, which sought retrospective endorsement for representations submitted on the South Staffordshire Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper. The report outlined that South Staffordshire District Council (SSDC) would be consulting on an issues and options paper for the Wolverhampton Airport Policy Area Development Plan Document (DPD) early in 2007. SSDC is currently consulting on this DPD until 12th March 2007.
- 3.2 Officers attended a workshop organised by SSDC on the 31st January. The workshop provided the opportunity to discuss the key issues raised in the issues and options paper. It will also be used to inform the ongoing process of developing the DPD.

3.3 In view of the deadline for receipt of representations on the Issues and Options Paper (12th March 2007), officers have submitted representations reflecting those issues outlined in this report and Council policy. Cabinet's endorsement of the representations is now being sought. Further opportunities to consider the Wolverhampton Airport Policy Area DPD in more detail will be available at the Preferred Options and Submission stages of the document's preparation.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 The Paper identifies the policy context for airport planning and identifies the key issues relating to Wolverhampton Airport. These include:

- The expansion of Wolverhampton Airport
- The role of Wolverhampton Airport
- Permitted aviation uses
- New development
- Existing buildings and support uses
- The future use of the airport
- Wartime heritage

4.2 There are a number of options identified under each issue. Appendix 1 to this report sets out the representations submitted by Officers on the first four key issues outlined above. These are very much centred on the Council's Adopted Motion which is set out below.

4.2 It is Council policy (July 2003 CM 102), to oppose expansion of the Wolverhampton Airport because it could potentially cause the following:

- i) Cause very serious environmental damage within North Worcestershire
- ii) Have severe impact on the quality of life of residents in the Wyre Forest District
- iii) Require massive investment in infrastructure which would result in irreversible changes to the environment.
- iv) Destroy the integrity of the green belt between Wyre Forest and the western part of the West Midland conurbation.

4.1 Furthermore in 2005 the Council re-affirmed its opposition to the expansion of Wolverhampton Airport and objected to the latest planning application (which was subsequently withdrawn).

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications to the Council arising out of this report.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. The recommended policy responses are in accordance with the Council's established priorities.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 There are no risk management issues arising from this report.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 Officers have submitted representations on the issues and options paper in accordance with Council Policy and the issues set out in this report.

9. **CONSULTEES**

None

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- South Staffordshire Local Development Framework – Wolverhampton Business Airport Development Plan Document Issues and Options Paper (January 2007).
- Sustainability Appraisal of Wolverhampton Airport Issues and Options Paper (January 2007)

11. Appendices

Appendix 1: Summary of representations submitted to South Staffordshire District Council on the Wolverhampton Airport Policy Area DPD Issues and Options Paper.

Ftao Development Plans Manager,
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Council Offices, Wolverhampton Road,
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South Staffordshire Local Development Framework
Wolverhampton Airport Policy Area Issues and Options Paper
Wyre Forest District Council Representations

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Wyre Forest District Council wishes to submit the following representations in relation to:

Key Issue: The Expansion of Wolverhampton Airport

Wyre Forest District Council firmly resists any proposals for the expansion of the airport. The Council considers this to be the most sustainable of the three options due to the following:

- i) Expansion could cause very serious environmental damage within North Worcestershire.
- ii) It could have a severe impact on the quality of life of residents in the Wyre Forest District.
- iii) It would require a massive investment in infrastructure, which would result in irreversible changes to the environment.
- iv) It could destroy the integrity of the green belt between Wyre Forest and the western part of the West Midlands conurbation.

Key Issue: The Role of Wolverhampton Airport

Wyre Forest District Council supports the continuing role of Wolverhampton Airport as a general aviation airport incorporating business aviation, recreational (private flying) and flying training. However, it is considered that a robust definition of "business aviation" should be incorporated within the Development Plan Document for clarification purposes.

The District Council considers that should a master plan for the airport be produced as part of the Local Development Framework, then it should be produced by South Staffordshire District Council and not the company that owns the airport. It should be subject to a thorough sustainability appraisal.

Key Issue: Permitted Aviation Uses

Wyre Forest District Council supports the restriction of the use of the airport by small light executive jet aircraft for the reasons set out under Key Issue 1. Most significantly, because of the potential impacts on the resident's quality of life within the Wyre Forest District.

Key Issue: New Development

It is not considered that South Staffordshire District Council should adopt a more positive approach to new development and encourage other aviation related businesses to locate at the airport. This would not be consistent with the option for the restriction on expansion of the Wolverhampton Business Airport.

If you have any queries in relation to this representation, please contact me on 01562 732554.

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