

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET 28 OCTOBER 2002 AT 2.00 P.M.

Agenda Item No.

5

**CONSULTATION ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED
OPTIONS FOR AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH EAST**

Report of the Director of Environment

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1. Purpose of report

To update members on the SERAS consultation and work in progress to prepare a formal response, as a basis to identify an interim County Council position on the options.

2. Summary

2.1 The Department for Transport's study of the anticipated demand for air travel and the possible implications for air services and new airport infrastructure was published in July with a consultation period ending on the 30 November. Officers reported the contents to Members in a briefing note shortly after publication and in a number of presentations.

2.2 In view of the official closing date of the consultation it is intended to take a report to the Regional Planning Issues Panel on 20 November to agree a draft response. This will be sent to the Department for Transport as a draft but will be discussed, amended and formally adopted by Cabinet on December 16 and at County Council on December 17. The Department has agreed that any changes and amendments to the draft response will then be accepted but the interim response must be made by the official closing date.

2.3 The consultation contains a number of options for the development of airports, including Luton and Stansted. The level of development proposed, a new replacement runway at Luton and up to 3 new runways at Stansted, would clearly have enormous implications for this county and have engendered much public concern.

2.4 While council members and officers have attended a number of public meetings the coverage of these meetings across the county has been patchy. In order to ensure an even coverage of such meetings so that all the public likely to be affected are made as fully aware of the situation as possible a programme of additional meetings has been arranged.

- 2.5 In order to understand the full implications of the proposals the County Council has joined with District and adjoining councils (notably Essex) to engage consultants to consider various aspects such as aircraft noise, surface access and urbanisation. While this work is not completed for either Luton or Stansted it is clear that the implications for this County are such that Members may wish to vigorously oppose the Government's proposals for both airports.
- 2.6 It is intended to work with local and neighbouring councils to produce where possible joint responses to strengthen our position. However, while opposition can be based on public feeling and the technical findings of the consultants, if Government is to be swayed by the county's views all other avenues to influence its ultimate decision need to be explored.

3. Conclusions

- 3.1 The potential development of, particularly, Luton and Stansted Airports will have enormous implications for Hertfordshire. If the public are to be better informed to respond to government it would assist if the Council took an interim position regarding the options and confirmed support for an active campaign to oppose them.

Background

As background information copies of the report put to the Regional Planning Panel of EELGC have been placed in the Members' Room. It provides a summary of the Consultation Document and the issues raised. (*Further copies of the paper are available on request from Committee Services on 01992 555562*)