

Application being submitted for the sustainable long-term growth of London Luton Airport

March 1, 2023



Luton Rising, the Luton Council company that owns London Luton Airport for community benefit, is working to submit its application for the airport's long-term sustainable growth to the Planning Inspectorate, which includes the extension of the Luton DART (Direct Air-Rail Transit).

The plans include community funding proposals that, in time, could provide an additional £14 million every year for communities across Luton and neighbouring areas, and would support the company's wider ambition of making London Luton Airport a leader in sustainable aviation.

The Development Consent Order (DCO) application comprises 198 documents, containing just over 25,000 detailed pages of proposals and plans.

Consent is being sought for the expansion of London Luton Airport from its current permitted cap of 18 million passengers per annum (mppa) up to 32 mppa, including: new terminal capacity; earthworks to create an extension to the current airfield platform; new airside and landside facilities; enhancement of the surface access network; extension of the Luton DART; landscaping and ecological improvements; and

further infrastructure enhancements and initiatives to support the target of achieving zero-emission ground operations by 2040.

The proposals have been shaped by a programme of assessments, community and stakeholder engagement and consultation stretching across more than four years. Three consultation exercises were undertaken during 2018, 2019 and 2022, and in total more than 8,000 responses were received.

The submission documents include a full Needs Case, Environmental Statement, Traffic Assessment and Green Controlled Growth strategy that seeks to set binding and independently-monitored environmental limits for carbon, air quality, noise, and surface access – how people get to and from the airport.

Also included are improved noise insulation plans, and a consultation report which outlines how all comments received have been considered and responded to.

Submission of the application marks the start of the ‘acceptance’ stage of the DCO process. There will follow a 28-day period for the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, to decide whether or not the application meets the standards required to be accepted for examination, or if further documentation is needed.

Graham Olver, Chief Executive Officer of Luton Rising, said: “We’re pleased to bring forward these proposals for the expansion of London Luton Airport – we aim to enhance economic activity in and around Luton, provide numerous community benefits, and make the airport a leader in sustainable aviation. We now wait in anticipation for the Inspectorate’s decision as to whether we proceed to the examination stage of the DCO process.

“We have certainly endeavoured to do everything we can to deliver an achievable, detailed and evidence-based application that will meet the Inspectorate’s requirements. We hope that this will mark the start of the next phase of our commitment to grow London Luton Airport and help to deliver the employment, prosperity and positive social impact for Luton and neighbouring communities that they so richly deserve.”