

Planning Policy Scrutiny Committee



Date	25 July 2006
Venue	Town Hall, Lytham St Annes
Committee members	Councillor Kevin Eastham (Chairman) Councillor Colin Walton (Vice-Chairman) John Bennett, Harold Butler, George Caldwell, Dr Trevor Fiddler, Karen Henshaw, Heather Speak, William Thompson,
Other Councillors	Christine Akeroyd, Fabian Wilson, Roger Small
Officers	Dave Joy, Ian Curtis, Paul Walker, Tony Donnelly, Julie Glaister, Chris Kitchen, Lyndsey Lacey, Mike Walker, Annie Womack

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Planning Policy Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 8 June 2006 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

3. Substitute members

Nil

4. The Future: Blackpool International Airport Master Plan

Tony Donnelly (Development Plans Manager) introduced a report on the Blackpool International Airport Master Plan consultation document. The report included a copy of the Master Plan.

Mr Donnelly explained that the purpose of the report was to provide members with an opportunity to consider the implications of the master plan in terms of

the council's responsibilities in order to inform a formal response to the airport company.

In brief, the report provided details of government guidance on the preparation and function of airport master plans. It also provided information on the content of the Blackpool Airport Master Plan; details on passenger growth; infrastructure development; surface access; impact on people and the natural environment; aircraft noise; air quality; landscape, heritage and water quality; cost/ benefits of airport growth and information on the integration with the planning process.

The committee considered each subject heading contained in the report which included comments made by the officer and suggested recommendations.

Clarity was sought on the potential number of daily commercial flights anticipated/ sources of information concerning passenger growth. Mr Donnelly addressed this point.

Concerns were also raised about the implications of airport development taking place as permitted development irrespective of Green Belt designation. Mr Donnelly confirmed the situation as set out in the report. In terms of the infrastructure development an indicative plan was made available at the meeting. This detailed the existing and proposed development layout at the airport site. Members raised the issue of whether or not the Borough Council should work in conjunction with Blackpool Borough Council in preparing an Area Action Plan for the site. Mr Donnelly indicated that whilst the issue of the proposed extension to the business park could be considered within the on-going business and industrial land allocations DPD, , there may be little merit in attempting to produce policy for other areas of the site when most development could probably be undertaken under airport permitted development rights.

Members raised a number of issues about reference in the plan to development at the south side of the airport which included the proposed location of the hangers/ helicopter pad. Members suggested that this area is unsuitable for its purpose for the reasons outlined at the meeting.

The Committee commented on the potential for further aircraft noise/ air pollution. Mr Walker responded stating that the majority of complaints from residents related to aircraft schools and helicopters. There was limited information about noise mitigating measures but suggested that recent aircraft technology would go some way to improve the situation.

Additional information was also sought on the costs and benefits of aircraft growth and whether or not this depended on the casino led regeneration of Blackpool. Mr Donnelly reminded members that York Aviation was currently undertaking a socio-economic study of the airport for the Lancashire Economic Partnership which would report soon on the contribution that the airport makes to the local and sub-regional economy.

After a full discussion the Committee RESOLVED:

1. To support the principle of airport growth and development subject to the concerns outlined within the individual recommendations contained within the body of the report and subject to the following modifications:

Recommendation 5 (page 9) delete the words "the proposed Area Action Plan" and substitute with "a possible Area Action Plan".

Recommendation 13 (page 12) inserts the words "additional impact" after the words "anticipated by the Master Plan would any"

2. To establish a Task and Finish Group comprising the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Committee together with councillors Fiddler and Small to tailor the final response prior to the conclusion of the consultation period.
