

**EXAMINATION OF THE LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT AND
ENVIRONS JOINT AREA ACTION PLAN (JAAP)**

WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2014

INSPECTOR'S NOTE

In attendance:

Mr D Smith – Inspector

Ms K Freeman – Programme Officer

Representing Rochford District Council (RDC) and Southend-on-Sea
Borough Council (SBC):

Mr S Hollingworth – Planning Policy Team Leader, RDC

Mr S Scrutton – Head of Planning and Transportation, RDC

Cllr K Hudson - RDC

Mr M Thomas – Team Leader, Strategic Planning, SBC

Mr P Mathieson – Group Manager, Strategic Planning and Transportation,
SBC

Mr M Murphy – Group manager, Property and Regeneration, SBC

Mr P Geraghty – Head of Planning and Transportation, SBC

**This is not a verbatim record of the hearing session but sets out
the matters covered by the Inspector**

The purpose of this session is to review the proposed and other possible amendments that have occurred during the course of the hearing sessions and to consider how these are to be dealt with. Furthermore, it is also to give some indication of the next steps in the process and the likely timescales. However, none of this should be taken as pre-judging the contents of the final Report which will take into account all relevant matters and representations.

The changes proposed prior to the hearings amount to Main Modifications as referred to in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. In order for the Councils to adopt the Plan in these circumstances I can only recommend Main Modifications if asked to do so by the local planning authorities under section 20 (7C). If the Councils wish to make this request it should therefore be done before my report is finalised and I will indicate if and when I consider this to be appropriate.

There is a distinction between Main and Additional Modifications. Additional Modifications are those that (taken together) do not materially affect the policies of the Plan and Main Modifications can therefore be taken to be those that do materially affect the policies. They will therefore comprise any changes to the policies themselves or to the supporting text which has a significant bearing on the interpretation of that policy. My concern is solely with Main Modifications.

The list of matters that emerged during the hearings where the Council is considering further possible changes was reviewed.

Some of these require some input from me in order to indicate whether there is potential unsoundness and any revisions that would ensure soundness. I will therefore confirm the matters discussed today and provide an interim view in certain respects. This is intended to be helpful in order to give the Councils an opportunity to consider what further modifications, if any, should be made. However, it is ultimately a matter for them as to whether or how they wish to modify the Plan. I therefore intend to deal with this as a first stage of the post-hearing process which should be completed by **Friday 23 May** or earlier if the further information requested on viability is available sooner than requested.

My letter to the Councils will be publicly available and published on the website in the normal way. The ball will then be in the Councils court and they should work on a consolidated schedule of Main Modifications that can be consulted on in one go. Before it is published the Councils may wish me to see it in order to ensure that it reflects my understanding of the discussion at the hearings and to avoid any obvious soundness issues. Others may have a different opinion about these proposed changes and the overall soundness of the Plan as a whole but that is something for me to resolve in the final Report.

The period of consultation should be for a minimum of 6 weeks. In carrying out the further consultation can I ask that the Councils provide some further information in any communication about the nature of the main planned changes and that it is made clear that comments should solely be addressed to the proposed changes. The Councils should also bear in mind the possible need for further Sustainability Appraisal and any necessary assessment under the Habitat Regulations but, at this juncture, I do not expect there is likely to be a need for further hearing sessions.

Could the Councils please keep me informed of progress in this respect. I will then need to consider the consultation responses before writing my report and recommendation. At the moment it is difficult to give definite guidance about when this will be produced but I expect it would be about 6 weeks after the close of the consultation period. A firmer date will be given nearer the time.

Before I close the hearing sessions can I personally thank Kerry Freeman for the excellent work she has done as Programme Officer and Kay Tinson and Debbie Skinner for their help during the hearings. I would like to thank the Council officers for their timely and helpful responses to my various requests and for their oral contributions during the hearings and also those representors who attended the hearings for their input.