

**MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY TASK & FINISH GROUP:
LONDON LUTON AIRPORT AIR QUALITY IMPACT**

TUESDAY 12TH MARCH 2019 AT 6.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillors; Chowdhury, Keens, Moles, Nicholls, Waheed.

SUPPORT OFFICERS / ADVISORS:

- Eunice Lewis – Democracy and Scrutiny Officer
- Ra'ana Riyaz – Trainee Democracy and Scrutiny Officer
- Anita Gackowska – Service Director, LLAL
- Robin Porter – Corporate Director Customer & Commercial
- Andrew Loosley – Technical Officer - Environmental Protection / Air Quality
- Nicola Monk – Interim Corporate Director Place & Infrastructure
- Sarah Hall - Service Director Public Protection
- Chris Hall - Communications And Marketing Account Manager
- Claire Astbury – Interim Service Director Policy, Engagement & Communities
- Stephen Gunther – Service Director Healthcare & Adults Commissioning
- Lisa Hudson - Public Health Development Officer
- Antony Aldridge - Strategic Development Manager LLAL

		ACTION
01.	ELECTION OF CHAIR (REF: 1)	
	Resolved: That Councillor Keens be elected chair of the London Luton Airport Air Quality Impact Scrutiny Task & Finish Group for the duration of the review.	
02.	APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE (REF: 2)	
	An apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor Petts.	
03.	LONDON LUTON AIRPORT AIR QUALITY TFG – DRAFT SCOPE (REF: 6)	
	The Democracy and Scrutiny Officer introduced the report Ref: 6, regarding the Draft scope for the London Luton Airport Air Quality Impact TFG. She explained that the purpose of the meeting was to consider and agree the draft scope for the review.	

She said that the topic of air quality in Luton was an area of interest to scrutiny members and that the Overview and Scrutiny Board had received several reports in the past and had considered various approaches to scrutinise air quality and its impact in Luton and around the Airport. As a result the Overview and Scrutiny Board put forward a recommendation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 19th November 2018 to establish a time-limited task and finish group to investigate the air pollution and air quality impact in the wards immediately surrounding the airport.

The Democracy and Scrutiny Officer then highlighted the recommendations as stated in the report as below:

- That Members of the TFG be requested to note, comment and agree the scope attached to the report.
- That TFG be requested to note the review would fully commence after the 2nd May 2019 election. Future meeting dates were to be decided at the first meeting after the 2nd May 2019 election
- That the Democracy and Scrutiny Officer be delegated the responsibility to make necessary amendments to the Draft Scope in consultation with the Chair and support officers.

She further drew Members attention to the Draft Scope and highlighted background to the review including the local and national legislative context on air pollution and air quality.

There were three objectives of the review, namely:

- Overview of air quality and related health impacts with focus on the wards immediately surrounding the airport based on current available data;
- Adequately investigate community concerns regarding the Airport's current impact on local air quality;
- Review and benchmark of the current Luton Council and Luton air quality monitoring programmes, where necessary identifying potential improvements in scope, coverage and quality to ensure all pollutants of concern were adequately monitored.

The Democracy and Scrutiny Officer further advised that there had been some suggestions about areas of focus that could be discussed by Members at a future meeting of the Group. She added that investigations and evidence gathering would take place after the local election.

Furthermore, Members were advised of exclusion areas from the Task and Finish Group, including:

- Planning Application 17/02300 relating to Century Park;
- The non-statutory consultation on the Development Consent Order for the growth of the airport from 18mppa to 32mppa by 2050
- Any Airspace Change procedures which were regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority
- Board decisions of London Luton Airport Ltd

Following questions and comments, Members considered the area of focus as proposed in the ToR for inclusion in the review, namely: Stopsley, Wigmore, Crawley, Roundgreen and South ward. The Interim Corporate Director Place & Infrastructure suggested that Members may wish to consider whether the inclusion of South ward was necessary as there was already air quality work taking place in the town centre area. However, Members of the TFG indicated that the inclusion of the South ward in the review would help scrutinise wider issues of air pollution including air pollution caused by cars and buses, etc.

The Technical Officer - Air Quality stated that there had already been some work on this, as Air Quality Action Plans (AQAPs) had been established in three areas of Luton which looked at the poor air quality in those areas, one of which was within South ward. A part of this course of action would be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Board as a report regarding Air Quality on Stuart Street. The officer explained that, when developing the action plan for the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in South ward, the Council would have undertaken a source apportionment study to establish a detailed understanding of the origin of the pollution affecting Stuart Street. As this work was completed before he came into post, he stated that he would seek to obtain a copy of the output of this study. He further highlighted that the AQAP for the South ward AQMA was approved by Executive last year and was due to be submitted to Defra imminently.

Following questions and comments, the Technical Officer clarified that Luton does not breach the Air Quality Objectives for particulate matter (PM₁₀). However, two areas around the M1 and an area on Stuart Street had exceeded the annual mean Air Quality Objective for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂).

A Member of the Task and Finish group expressed concern about the pollution surrounding the four schools in the Wigmore area, stating that those areas should be monitored. In response, the Technical Officer - Air Quality explained that the need to monitor at specific locations is typically determined with reference to traffic flows and air quality modelling data. Consequently, the officer suggested that an initial screening of these locations might be useful prior to committing to additional monitoring.

The officer also highlighted that none of the six diffusion tube monitoring sites located along the Eaton Green Road and in nearby residential streets had ever exceeded the Air Quality Objectives for NO₂.

The Chair suggested that there should be a seminar in which Members of the Task and Finish Group would be given training on air quality and pollution and in response Members were informed that this could be part of the evidence gathering process where Members of the TFG could task Officers to submit a report on air quality and pollution. Members and officers agreed the direction of travel for officers submit a report covering air quality/air pollution impact.

The Chair commented that the areas of inclusion suggested by the Group Leader, Liberal Democrats should also be addressed during the evidence gathering process.

It was also suggested that Members should consider having some of the meetings held at public venues in order to enhance public engagement.

The Democracy and Scrutiny Officer advised that one of the main items which would be considered at the next meeting was the outline project plan, consideration of items to populate the work programme. The Interim Corporate Director commented that public engagement was vital to the review.

Resolved: (i) That the scope for the review attached as an Appendix to the Report (Ref: 6) be agreed.

(ii) That the proposal for the review to fully commence after the 2nd May 2019 election be noted.

(iii) That the proposal to agree the future meeting dates be discussed and approved at the next meeting.

(iv) That the Democracy and Scrutiny Officer be delegated the responsibility to make necessary amendments to the scope in consultation with the Chair and the Officer Advisory group.

(NOTE: The meeting ended at 6.30pm)