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Members of Overview & Scrutiny  
Board

25 September 2020

Dear Councillor

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD MEETING: 28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

Please find attached the Item marked "To Follow" on the Agenda recently dispatched to you.

**Item 7 – London Luton Airport AQ Impact TFG Progress Update From Executive meeting on 14.09.2020**

Please bring these papers with you to the meeting.

Yours Sincerely,

Eunice Lewis  
Democracy & Scrutiny Officer

Encl.

<b>Scrutiny Committee:</b>	Overview & Scrutiny Board (OSB)
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	28 September 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>London Luton Airport AQ Impact TFG Progress Update From Executive meeting on 14.09.2020</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Chair of the Task and Finish Group (Councillor Keens) and the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board (Councillor Pedersen)</b>

### Purpose

1. To consider the Decision made by the Executive on 14 September 2020 in response to the report on Recommendations of the London Luton Airport Air Quality Impact Task and Finish Group.

### Recommendations

2. To note and comment on the Decision No: **EX/104/20** made by the Executive on 14 September 2020 in response to the report on Recommendations as follows:
  - (i) That the Executives thanks to the London Luton Airport Air Quality Task and Finish Group for their hard work in producing the report be recorded.
  - (ii) That the Executive thanks to schools, Officers and external witness's contributions to the report be recorded.
  - (iii) That the following recommendations of the London Luton Airport Air Quality Task and Finish Group be noted; as below.
  - (iv) That the Executive agreed the following recommendations of the London Luton Airport Air Quality Task and Finish Group as below.
3. To Note the update from the Chair of the Task and Finish Group, Councillor Keens.

### Report

4. This report presents to the Overview and Scrutiny Board the Recommendations from the Task and Finish Group submitted to Executive meeting on 14 September 2020.
5. There are 19 recommendations in all. The highlighted recommendations in bold below (Recommendations 10, 13, 18 and 19 were agreed, whilst the others were noted).

#### Recommendation 1 (Paragraphs 6-8 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)

- (i) That the Executive request the Director of Place and Infrastructure to extend the measurement and modelling of particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> & PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>1</sub>) where possible more widely to the Wards immediately adjacent to the Airport and commit an intention that the modelling of particulate matter be further extended and made a town wide project in order to promote public confidence; and suggest that work take

place with the Airport Operators, and all stakeholders and relevant departments including consulting with local people and other local authorities to see what relevant model is appropriate for all the wards around the Airport and more widely across the town.

#### Recommendations 2 (Paragraphs 11-12 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)

- (i) That the Executive request the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing together with the Director of Place & Infrastructure to enter into discussions with the Airport Operator, about the possibility of introducing Airport Park and Ride facilities by establishing a multi-agency approach, with the aim of introducing more sustainable travel models, the introduction of clean air zones and restricted parking, to make it less appealing to drive to and from the Airport (paragraphs .
- (ii) That the Executive request the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing together with the Director of Place & Infrastructure, to develop an action plan with London Luton Airport Operations Ltd which establishes a multi-agency approach to deliver the following objectives:
  - Offer better public transport, at reasonable fares.
  - The establishment of an Airport Park and Ride facilities
  - Request the Council to enforce the smoke free zones in strategic locations in the vicinity of the Airport area including Schools and residential houses in the area.  
Clean Air Zones
  - Restricted Parking and fines for more polluting vehicles

#### Recommendation 3 (Paragraph 17 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)

- (i) That the Executive request the Director of Place and Infrastructure to take steps including contact and liaison with other local authorities to identify best practice in investigating the effectiveness of low emission zones and depending upon the outcome, consider the commissioning of LEZ in key strategic areas in Luton and in particular London Luton Airport.

#### Recommendation 4 (Paragraph 19 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)

- (i) That the Executive be requested to commission a study locally to investigate the benefits that Low Emission Zones (LEZ) have had in other authorities that have adopted similar schemes with a view to piloting such a scheme in the vicinity of London Luton Airport with the aim of extending the scheme town wide (paragraph 19).
- (ii) That the Scrutiny Children Services Review Group be recommended to receive an annual progress update of the CHILL study to monitor progress and achievements throughout the 4 year commissioned period of completion.

#### Recommendations 5 (Paragraphs 24-26 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)

- (i) That, in the absence of available data, the Executive be requested to instruct the Director of Place & Infrastructure and the Director of Public Health & Wellbeing, to take all necessary steps to improve the collection of data and data analysis, to ascertain whether the people living in the 5 wards immediately adjacent to LLA are most likely to suffer as a result of contamination or air pollution around London Luton Airport.
- (ii) That, in taking the necessary steps, the Director Public Health and Wellbeing be requested to determine the impact of air pollution in the area within the scope and whether those closest to the airport are exposed to more air pollution than others; whether they are more vulnerable to air pollution than others; whether there is more disease that is linked to air pollution in those wards; and generally to determine whether local residents within the ward area suffer the most consequences of poor air and pollution.

#### Recommendations 6 (Paragraphs 27, 28 & 29 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)

- (i) That, in order to identify the wards where air pollution is most prevalent and why, the Executive request the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing and Luton CCG, to investigate the sources of air pollution locally and, using the Sheffield model as a case study, commission a model relevant to Luton to draw up an action plan to address and reduce the impact of pollutants of concern.
- (ii) That the action plan to be developed to investigate the sources of air pollution locally referred to at (i) above, be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Board for the purpose of monitoring progress.

#### Recommendation 7 (Paragraph 30 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)

- (i) That the Executive request the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing together with the Director of Place & Infrastructure, in partnership with local bus operators', LLA td. and local people, to consider initiatives and adopt cross cutting policy and strategy to (a) reduce congestion and traffic (b) reduce traffic to and from London Luton Airport area and (c) reduce other road harms, as a health and social equality priority to tackle and improve air quality in the area immediately surrounding London Luton Airport, with a view a adopting a town wide strategy and travel initiative.

#### Recommendation 8 (Paragraphs 31-34 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)

- (i) That the Executive be requested to instruct the Director Public Health and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Luton CCG and the Luton & Dunstable Hospital, to develop an Action Plan compiling health data of respiratory conditions broken down to ward level to

include Hospital Episode Statistics, in order to identify trends, the level of impact poor air quality is having on local residents and to determine whether there is a prevalence of respiratory diseases in the 5 wards immediately adjacent to the Airport; and suggest that the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing to liaise with Luton CCG and the Luton and Dunstable Hospital to retrieve Hospital Episode Statistics to a knowledge and intelligence team In Luton Council. This should be broken down to LSOA level and to pulling data broken into wards.

#### Recommendation 9 (Paragraphs 36-37 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)

- (i) That given there is no such thing as a healthy level of air pollution in that reaching the EU standards would not safeguard local residents from harm, the Executive be requested to develop an Emissions Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan covering the Airport area which will improve air quality for health and wellbeing without arbitrary limits.
- (ii) That the Executive request the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing to work with the Executive's Climate Change Advisory Board to tackle air pollution in line with the government's strategy which sets out a clear direction for future air quality policies and goals.
- (iii) That the Executive request the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing in partnership with the Director of Place & Infrastructure to establish initiatives that will reduce traffic congestion in the town with greater consideration to cycling and walking, green public transport and green infrastructure, that is known to support physical health and wellbeing and in some instances if used wisely, is understood to act as a barrier to air pollution.

#### **Recommendations 10 (Paragraphs 38-42 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)**

- (i) That the Executive request the Director of Place & Infrastructure to carry out a comprehensive pollution monitoring programme at and amongst housing in the immediate vicinity of London Luton Airport (for example Ashcroft, Hedley Rise) for the improvement of air quality and protection from harm of local residents.**
- (ii) That the Executive request the Director of Place & Infrastructure to work with local people and adopt best practice of other local authorities that have evidenced better outcomes in terms of their air quality plan and strategy.**

#### Recommendation 11 (Paragraphs 50 -54 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)

- (i) That the Executive request the Director Public Health and Wellbeing to raise awareness in the following ways, encouraging local people to be clean air ambassadors to their neighbours, families and friends, including projects with community groups and using diffusion tubes to give an approximation of the quality of air at a particular point in a

locality around the 5 wards immediately adjacent to the airport, and to identify patterns and trends:

- work with Schools, local people, and local community groups
  - hold local community workshops and produce information sheets or leaflets, to reach out in particular to hard to reach groups.
  - educate people to become more aware of signing up to monitoring alerts and promoting behavioural change,
  - work with the Council's Communications Team/PH to do more to publicise good practice and encourage the local community to use available facilities.
  - set performance targets to measure success, reporting quarterly outcomes in the Corporate Performance Report submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Board every quarter.
- (ii) That the Executive request the Director of Place & Infrastructure and the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing to develop an Emission Strategy, Action Plan and a public health outcome framework, in order to raise awareness of harm from exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

Recommendation 12 (Paragraphs 58-59 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)

- (i) That the Executive request the Director of Place & Infrastructure not to proceed with the proposed widening and junction upgrades along Vauxhall Way as it is felt that this would only add to an already existing situation of congested traffic and build-up of traffic leading to London Luton Airport and air pollution

**Recommendation 13 (Paragraphs 67-68 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)**

- (i) **That the Executive request the Portfolio Holder for Customer & Commercial (Housing and Environment) and the Director of Place & Infrastructure to ensure that the Climate Change Executive Advisory Group build on the work of the TFG on improving air quality as a council priority and to ensure that consultation and robust public engagement takes place (a) to raise awareness and support the schools in the immediate vicinity of the airport and any in the flight path (b) to introduce car free days and (c) ensure that funds are made available to look at the possibility of addressing the school drop offs and pickups.**
- (ii) **That the Major Projects Team be requested to report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Board on progress within six months from the date of the Executive decision.**

#### Recommendation 14 (Paragraph 72 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)

- (i) That the Executive request the Director of Public Health & Wellbeing to devise and undertake public health campaigns to support behavioural change, including reaching out to hard to reach groups and encouraging local residents to take small steps which, when combined with much wider interventions, will give a real change in air quality, such measures to include adopting good practice schemes that encourage the introduction and safe use of cycles, walking etc.

#### Recommendation 15 (Paragraphs 74-79 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)

- (i) That the Executive request the Director of Place & Infrastructure and the Director of Public Health & Wellbeing to work with schools and local community groups to improve air quality monitoring by:
  - The introduction of public and school traffic policies outside schools at peak times when children are coming and going.
  - Investigating better ways to monitor air quality around schools.
  - Investigating the possibility of effective air filter systems in schools and work places around the airport.
  - Investigating new air filter systems that can be installed outside schools and work places.
  - Increasing the number of monitors around the areas closest to the airport especially schools.

#### Recommendation 16 (Paragraphs 83-86 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)

- (i) That the Executive request the Director of Place & Infrastructure and the Director of Public Health & Wellbeing to consider supporting schools in the following initiatives which the schools on their own have already begun, to reduce air pollution and carbon emissions:
  - tree planting of varieties that absorb more of the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
  - “Switch off Engine” fortnight initiative
  - free Public transport for pupils under 18 to discourage parents from using their cars to drop off children at school and outings
  - walking to School Days
  - commissioning of special environmental investigation into the odour reported in the vicinity of the airport
  - working with Transport Operators in Luton

- organise local workshops and work with schools and local community groups, etc.

#### Recommendation 17 (Paragraphs 89-91 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)

The TFG agreed that going forward, one of the Council's priorities is to look at how to, and therefore recommend:

- (i) That, in order to reduce the pollution outside schools and other places where children congregate, the Executive request the Director of Place & Infrastructure to work together with the airport operations to consider developing an Airport Emissions Strategy and action plan aimed at reducing build-up of traffic to the Airport ground services and also focussing on reducing air pollution for schools in the immediate vicinity of the airport and any under the flight path.
- (ii) That a progress report be submitted to the Scrutiny Overview and Scrutiny Board every 6 months.

#### Recommendation 18 (Paragraph 92 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)

- (i) That the Executive be requested to commission a Specialist Environmental Investigation to ascertain whether the perceived odour and haze is NO<sub>2</sub> or PM, which are the two pollutants of greatest concern due to harm; and in order to satisfy the concerns of the local population near the airport who do not believe that the airport is considering their health and that until there are monitoring stations within the housing areas and the measurements are both published and explained this will not be addressed.**
- (ii) That the Executive be requested to ask the Director Place & Infrastructure to seek funds for additional NOx tubes and to carry out comprehensive pollution monitoring at and amongst housing and/or residential areas within the airport.**

#### Recommendation 19 (Paragraph 93 to the Final report of the Task & Finish Group)

- (i) That the Executive request the Director of Place & Infrastructure and the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, to join up with the Bus Operators operating at the Airport including Arriva and Stagecoach, and LLAOL to investigate the concerns expressed about engine idling at London Luton Airport and to consider exploring policies for the improvement of air quality around the Airport and to extend more widely to the whole town in the near future.**
- (ii) That the Executive request the Director of Place & Infrastructure to work with local schools to address the issue of engine idling Outside the Local Schools.**
- (iii) That the Director Place and Infrastructure and Director Public Health and Wellbeing together with the Council's Legal Department investigate the**

**possibilities to:**

- **investigate the issue of engine idling at the Airport**
- **take action to instigate bye-laws to control adverse effects of engine idling explore opportunities for enforcement and to proactively campaign, educate and raise awareness of the impact of engine idling.**

**Reason: To ensure potential improvements of public awareness of air quality and air pollution that all pollutants of concern are adequately monitored, for the health and wellbeing of local residents.**

**Proposal/Option**

**6. Note and Comment on the Executive Decision**

**Appendix (if any)**

- None

**List of Background Papers - Local Government Act 1972, Section 100D**

**7. EX/104/20**