

## **COUNCIL – 10 SEPTEMBER 2019**

### **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

#### **QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR C BENFIELD TO COUNCILLOR R ASHMAN**

##### **East Midlands Airport and No-Deal Brexit.**

“As contingency planning continues for the increasing likelihood of a no-deal Brexit, much of the Nation's focus has been on implications at the Channel Ports.

However, as host to one of the largest air freight terminals in the UK, it would seem obvious that congestion at sea ports could be alleviated by increasing operations at East Midlands Airport.

Such preparations have not been publicly discussed.

I am concerned that the Airport has no restrictions on volume of traffic either by day or night, (although I am aware of the slightly tighter noise limits required at night).

Could the Leader therefore provide the Council with detailed information on the expected increases in: air and road traffic, noise, particulate pollution, and CO2 in the event of a no-deal Brexit.”.

#### **RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR R ASHMAN**

” The Council is fully engaged in the contingency planning for a no deal Brexit with the chief executive being the nominated Brexit Lead officer. Our role and responsibility under the Civil Contingency Act is to ensure that working with the Leicestershire Resilience forum (LRF) we plan for the potential disruption that a no deal exit could have. The LRF is made up of a wide number of partners from police, health, fire, ambulance, armed forces, district and County council, Highways England, Utilities and the voluntary sector.

One element of the contingency planning relates to the potential impact of traffic disruption around the airport as a result of any delays at the border. The Chief Executive is also a member of the National Border Control Sterling group that considers and plans for the impact of changes at the port, ensuring the council's port health authority role continues to run smoothly and effectively.

Plans have been developed to manage traffic disruption and there are a series of meetings with members and local communities over the coming weeks. The council has also developed a robust communication plan for communities, businesses and stakeholders linked to the national communication plan ‘Get Ready for Brexit’.

However the contingency planning in respect to the management of air freight movements at East Midlands airport is outside the locals authorities remit and control. Airport Co-ordination Limited is responsible for slot allocation scheduled facilitation and schedule date collection across the UK. They would be responsible for modelling ensuring efficient use of capacity and operational performance taking account of operational restrictions.

It is not possible at this time to estimate whether there would be a need for additional freight to be taken through East Midlands airport, but there are legislative restrictions that are in place and would need to be adhered to.

The airport has an environmental policy, continuous air quality monitoring for key pollutants set within the wider context of the Air Quality Strategy for England and Wales. The strategy sets limits for nitrogen dioxide, benzene and particulates. These results are publicly available monthly on the East Midlands airport website.

East Midlands airport also operate within the limitations of Noise Action Plan which is a statutory five year document recently the subject of public consultation and runs from 2019 - 2023. The plan assesses, considers and manages aircraft noise at the airport and is a legal requirement under the European Union Directive 2009/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. The Civil Aviation Authority and DEFRA have a role in ensuring compliance with the Noise Action Plan and the detailed plan and legislative context are set out on the East Midlands airport website.

We will continue to work closely with all key partners of which the airport is a key stakeholder to ensure that if there are changes these are considered by the Local Resilience Forum and we engage and communicate with our community through this period of uncertainty”.