

Local Plan Committee – Wednesday, 18 March 2026

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

QUESTION FROM MR CARL SUTTON

In January 1989 the Kegworth Air Disaster resulted in the loss of 47 lives when British Midland Flight 92 crashed in fields immediately south of Kegworth while attempting to land at East Midlands Airport. That tragedy remains deeply embedded in the collective memory of the village and the wider community.

For residents of Kegworth, the Runway 27 approach corridor is therefore not an abstract line on a planning map but a real aviation environment characterised by frequent low altitude aircraft movements and significant aircraft noise exposure.

In the emerging Local Plan, Site EMP97 proposes major strategic warehousing within this same airport approach corridor, while Site K12 proposes new housing on adjacent land beneath that same approach.

Environmental Information Regulations disclosures show that on 24 July 2025 Manchester Airport Group, the operator of East Midlands Airport, provided site specific advice to the Council stating:

“For reasons of aircraft noise exposure and disturbance, and residential amenity, it would be inappropriate to allocate this site for residential development.”

Question

Will the Committee identify, by document title, date and paragraph number, the specific published evidence relied upon when recommending Site K12 for residential allocation notwithstanding the airport operator’s advice and the site’s location within the 66 dB LAeq,8hr night aircraft noise contour beneath the Runway 27 approach?

RESPONSE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE

The [Kegworth site assessment document](#) is available on the Council's website and was prepared in advance of the Regulation 18 consultation in January 2024. At that point, the Council was not proposing to allocate the site.

It was proposed to allocate the site in the [11 March 2025 Local Plan Committee report](#) on proposed housing allocations – see paragraphs 5.11 to 5.14 and paragraph 5.20. The report mentions that the site is already a reserve housing allocation in the adopted Local Plan *“meaning it has been deemed sound through the Local Plan examination process.”*

The [19 November 2025 Local Plan Committee report](#) on housing allocations references legal advice received on 9 October 2025 (paragraphs 4.2 to 4.5). The report referenced at paragraph 4.6 that further advice was being sought and that members would be updated at the meeting. That advice was received on the day of the committee and was provided verbally. The advice supported the conclusions in the earlier advice and therefore the officer recommendations remained as per the report.