



SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF AN ECO-TOWN

SITE VISIT TO LEICESTER AIRPORT AND MEETING WITH IVAN COURT AND JOHN AINSWORTH OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE AERO CLUB ON 9 OCTOBER 2008

The Panel went on a site visit to Leicester Airport to see the scale of the proposed development site and to discuss with Ivan Court (Manager) and John Ainsworth (Aviation Manager) of the Leicestershire Aero Club the possible effects the development could have on the future of the Airport and Club.

The Panel NOTED the following points that arose from that meeting:

- The Club had been in existence for 50 years and was the oldest aero club in the country. There were 500 club members;
- Approximately 60% of the flights to and from the airport were for leisure/pleasure purposes with 40% for business purposes. There would be scope to develop the business side of the airport more and to involve the local community more in their activities;
- The Club had a 13 year leasehold agreement with the Co-operative Group;
- If the proposal for the Eco-Town were to go ahead there were possibilities for relocation of the airfield and discussions with the Co-op were ongoing in this respect;
- The relocation of a like-for-like airfield would take around five years to build and would cost in the region of £20 million;
- It was hoped that the Club would be able to relocate to a site in Leicestershire, although this was unlikely due to a lack of suitable and available sites.