

MEMBERS' INFORMATION SERVICE

Information Item

From: THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Circulated to: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date: 3RD OCTOBER 2002

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Introduction

1. This paper sets out details of a statement issued by the Leader of County Council regarding plans outlined in the recent Government Consultation Paper.

Background

2. On 11th September, 2002, an information item was sent to all members of the County Council in which the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management outlined the proposals set out in the Government consultation paper on proposals for the development of air transport in the United Kingdom over the next 30 years, including the possibility of new and expanded airports in the Midlands. The Director's paper also set out the Council's timetable for preparing a response and invited members' views on the matter by Friday, 11th October, 2002.

The Leader of the Council has recently issued a statement expressing his initial views on the Government's proposals, as follows:-

Leader calls for controlled air traffic growth

"East Midlands Airport is vitally important to the Leicestershire and East Midlands economies and we should plan for further expansion of its services. However, some of the options in the Government's consultation would produce more than a ten-fold increase in both passengers and freight - much of this being overspill from London and the south-east. A second runway to cope with this growth would have a disastrous effect on the local environment. In addition, such a large increase in night flights for freight would be completely unacceptable to the many local communities which already have to put up with the burden of noise.

2.

Over many years there has been a step by step increase in capacity at East Midlands Airport, giving us all the chance to assess the impact of each expansion before further growth is considered. This should be the pattern for the future. The Government should reject grandiose plans which have already created huge upset to those living in the area.

The consultation also sets out the possibility of a new airport between Rugby and Coventry, to replace Birmingham International. I see no case for this new airport. It is for others to comment on its impact on the Warwickshire countryside but it would also be close to the Leicestershire border. Communities in south Leicestershire would face the double nuisance of substantial aircraft noise and traffic using unsuitable country roads to reach the airport."

Officer to Contact

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