
Decision Maker: Executive
Following Pre-Decision Scrutiny by ERC PDS 18th September 2023

Date: 20th September 2023

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Key

Title: BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT NOISE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Contact Officer: James George, Airport Monitoring Officer
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Chief Officer: Director of Housing, Planning, Property and Regeneration

Ward: All

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Executive on 8 February, officers, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management, were authorised to work with Biggin Hill Airport Limited (BHAL) regarding the Noise Action Plan, with the objective of agreeing enhancements to improve the situation for residents under the flightpath.
- 1.2 It was also agreed that an update would be provided back to the Executive after six months.
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2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 Note that a specialist aviation consultant, Vanguardia, has been appointed to advise the Council on the Noise Action Plan and best industry standards around noise reduction and abatement.
- 2.2 Note that correspondence with BHAL is ongoing and a further update will be reported back to the Executive in January 2024. The Council is working towards reaching a substantive agreement on the Noise Action Plan and related matters by that date.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: N/A

Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority
 - 1) For children and young People to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
 - (2) For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence and making choices.
 - (3) For people to make their homes in Bromley and for business, enterprise and the third sector to prosper.
 - (4) For residents to live responsibly and prosper in a safe, clean and green environment great for today and a sustainable future.
 - (5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not applicable
2. Ongoing costs: Not applicable
3. Budget head/performance centre: N/A
4. Total current budget for this head: N/A
5. Source of funding: N/A

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 1
2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement
2. Call-in: Applicable

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: N/A

Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: N/A

Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: N/A

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (current and projected): Residents in wards overflowed by aircraft using Biggin Hill Airport are affected by its operations.

Ward Councillor Views

Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? This report has been circulated to Councillors in Biggin Hill, Bromley Common and Holwood, Chelsfield, Darwin, Farnborough and Crofton, Hayes and Coney Hall, Orpington and Petts Wood and Knoll.

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 Negotiation progress

- 3.1.1 Following the Executive Committee on 8 February, the Council has been in correspondence with BHAL around the Noise Action Plan. After several rounds of correspondence, a meeting was held at the Council's request between senior representatives of BHAL and of the Council, where both sides outlined and discussed their respective positions. The Council was represented at this meeting by the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management, the Leader, the Chief Executive, and the Director of Corporate Services and Governance.
- 3.1.2 Since this meeting, correspondence has continued and it is envisaged that further meetings will be held over the coming weeks and months to discuss measures that could be mutually agreeable, including in relation to the Noise Action Plan.

3.2 Consultant appointment

- 3.2.1 Due to the high importance of the noise related measures being examined and the necessity from the Council's perspective for such measures to be effective and efficient at improving the situation of residents under the flightpath, the Council has sought specialist aviation and noise advice.
- 3.2.2 Following a competitive tender process and subsequent interviews, a specialist aviation consultant, Vanguardia, has been appointed to advise the Council on the Noise Action Plan and best industry standards around noise reduction and abatement.
- 3.2.3 The consultant is an aviation noise expert with over 35 years' experience providing noise, vibration and acoustic services to national and local government, regulatory bodies and in the private sector.
- 3.2.4 Following the appointment, the aviation and noise consultant was briefed in detail about Biggin Hill Airport and the Noise Action Plan, including the concerns of residents under the flightpath.
- 3.2.5 The consultant has met with representatives of the Council and reviewed the Council's emerging proposals for enhancing the Noise Action Plan, as initially set out in the Officer Report to the Executive of 8 February. Building on this, the consultant is also providing detail of best industry practice that could further reduce noise and benefit residents under the flightpath. These measures have and are being considered by officers and senior council representatives as discussions with BHAL continue.
- 3.2.6 The consultant will continue to assist the Council with the ongoing correspondence with BHAL.

3.3 Noise Action Plan engagement

- 3.3.1 Many residents and resident groups have been in contact with the Council to share their views and thoughts on measures that would improve the situation of residents under the flightpath. Much of this resident feedback was included in the Officer Report to the Executive of 8 February.
- 3.3.2 Since this meeting, further feedback from residents and resident groups has also been received on the potential measures included in this report. This feedback is being reflected on

as the Council continues discussions with BHAL, alongside the input provided by the Council's aviation and noise consultant.

- 3.3.3 Residents will be given the opportunity to provide feedback on any prospective agreement with BHAL around the Noise Action Plan or related matters prior to any finalisation of this agreement.

4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

- 4.1 There is no impact to Vulnerable Adults and Children in respect of the services the Council delivers in this regard.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 For children and young People to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
- 5.2 For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence and making choices.
- 5.3 For people to make their homes in Bromley and for business, enterprise and the third sector to prosper.
- 5.4 For residents to live responsibly and prosper in a safe, clean and green environment great for today and a sustainable future.
- 5.5 To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Please refer to the full legal implications set out in the Executive report of 12 January 2022.
- 7.2 Note that the Council has instructed external solicitors in addition to retaining the services of King's Counsel. Further legal advice will be provided as needed.

Non-Applicable Sections:

Background Documents:
(Access via Contact Officer)

Financial, Personnel, Procurement and
Property
Executive Report on Biggin Hill Airport
Noise Action Plan Review
dated Wednesday 8 February 2023