

## EXECUTIVE MEETING

8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2011

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

#### 1. From Jennifer Munro, Managing Director, BHAL of the Chairman of the Executive

Are the Leader and Council Executive aware of the following Parliamentary questions, which were considered on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011 respectively?

#### **Aviation: Olympic Games 2012**

**Joseph Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ensure that any grant by Bromley council of a time limited waiver to the terms of lease to Biggin Hill Airport Ltd to allow extended hours and additional flights during the period of the London 2012 Olympics does not set a precedent for future expansion of the airport. [62591]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** In view of the anticipated number of international visitors expected to come to London for the games, and the demands this may place on aviation operations during the peak periods, we would encourage local authorities and others to give due consideration to any requests for flexibility on an exceptional basis around airport operating conditions during this period. However, so far as Biggin Hill airport is concerned, this is a matter for the London borough of Bromley, as the landlord of the airport, to decide.

#### **Biggin Hill Airport: Olympic Games 2012**

**Joseph Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the adequacy of the surface access strategy of Biggin Hill airport to handle traffic arising from any time-limited waiver to the terms of its lease with Bromley council during the period of the London 2012 Olympics. [62925]

**Mrs Villiers:** That would be a matter for agreement between the airport and the local authority.

**Joseph Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contribution his Department expects Biggin Hill airport to make in meeting demand for air travel during the London 2012 Olympics. [62927]

**Mrs Villiers:** Studies commissioned by the Department of Transport suggest that large numbers of additional private aircraft flights can be expected during the Games period, and that both airport and airspace capacity across south-east England will be in high demand, especially during peak periods. Biggin Hill airport, along with a number of other airports across the south-east, is expected to play an important part in accommodating this additional demand."

**Reply:**

Thank you for bringing to my attention the parliamentary questions which were considered on 28<sup>th</sup> June and 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011. I was aware of these questions and the answers provided which serve to confirm that the proposals we are considering are a matter for London Borough of Bromley to consider and determine.

**2. From Jennifer Munro, Managing Director (BHAL) of the Chairman of the Executive**

Given the short term nature of the request; the changes that were made in response to concerns about the last request; and given that the material temporary extension of hours amounts to a total of 5 hours per week, is the Leader aware of any reasonable grounds on which permission should be withheld under the terms of the Lease?

**Reply:**

The decision is shortly to be made by the Executive and it would not be appropriate for me to prejudge that decision.

**3. From Mr Michael Latham on behalf of Farnborough Park Estate Limited**

Is the Council aware of the resentment shown by local residents at such a short public consultation period and that many residents were unaware of a second Olympics proposal and had they been made aware, would have written to the Council opposing it?

**Reply:**

The Council received over 1000 new responses from groups or individuals and received over 1700 responses in total and this indicates the level of public interest. This was a major consultation exercise which was advertised in local papers and online as well as elsewhere. For the first time, the Council proactively contacted over 2000 residents and groups on the mailing list for their responses and these individuals had time to respond if they chose to. This is the second consultation period within a few months and there has been much publicity about this whole issue. You can advise residents that if there are others who would want to be included in consultation, they should e-mail [airport.consultation@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:airport.consultation@bromley.gov.uk) and their names will be added to the register.

**4. From Mr Michael Latham on behalf of Farnborough Park Estate Limited**

Why has the Council omitted from Report No RES 11073 the significant statement by the Government's Department of Transport that the forecast

use of Biggin Hill Airport for the 2012 Olympics – along with other Airports – ‘did not assume or consider any extension of the existing operating hours at any individual airport’?

**Reply:**

As far as I am aware the Department of Transport has not forecast use of Biggin Hill Airport for the 2012 Olympics. Atkins, their consultants, undertook a study which put forward a number of forecasts which were designed to inform their own and others discussions/decisions. Having said this, I agree that neither the Atkins Report nor indeed the Department of Transport has requested or proposed that LBB consider an extension of their existing operating hours. If they had done so, this would have been reported to Members.

**5. From Mr Michael Latham on behalf of Farnborough Park Estate Limited**

Does the Council accept that 7 of the 8 grounds for refusing the first Olympics proposal at the Council meeting Resolution of 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011 continue to apply to this second Olympics application?

**Reply:**

I have already publicly stated that some of the points to be considered are the same as before but equally, some of the points are different from the previous application. We must and we will consider each and any application on its merits and I cannot comment further at this stage, suffice to say that the consultation responses are useful as is the information supplied by BHAL and we will look very carefully at the all information before us.

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