

Planning application UTT/18/0460/FUL

Response to the consultation on UTT/18/0460/FUL by Henham Parish Council (HPC).

HPC have serious concerns and wish to object to the planning application to increase the permitted throughput of Stansted to 43 million passengers per annum (mppa). This compares to 25.9 mppa handled by Stansted last year and a current annual limit of 35mppa.

This application seems premature, Manchester Airport Group (MAG) do not themselves expect that Stansted will reach the present cap until 2023 and the Government's latest forecast suggests the target will not be reached until 2033. The Government is currently consulting on a new aviation strategy for the UK and expects to publish this by the end of the year. Why the rush with this application? Why is UDC accepting £117,781 in return for an agreement to dispose of the application within a period that is much shorter than that normally allowed for planning applications of this importance?

The rush is further exacerbated by the fact that for a 3000 page application, the period allowed for public consultation and objection ends on April 3rd. HPC would strongly suggest this is absurdly short and quite unreasonable.

Lastly it has to be said that as the whole question on London airport capacity is now under consideration by the Government, it seems proper for this matter to be decided at national level by the Secretary of State under the procedure applicable to 'national significant infrastructure projects', rather than by a local authority.

It is difficult to believe that a District Council Planning Committee has the expertise to deal with a planning application of this complexity. Among the areas that concern HPC is MAG's claims that there would be 'no significant adverse environmental effects' if its planning application were to be approved. A 44% increase in flights and a 66% increase in passengers would obviously mean a great deal more noise, a great deal more pollution and a great deal more traffic on our already congested local roads. UDC has a responsibility to ensure that its residents are looked after, and protected from gross infrastructure projects that would impact on their lives. This is of great concern to the Parish of Henham with our geographical location so close to the airport.