
REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENTAL AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM: 8

DATE OF
MEETING: 10 NOVEMBER 2005

CATEGORY:
DELEGATED

REPORT FROM: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

OPEN
PARAGRAPH NO:

MEMBERS'
CONTACT POINT: RICHARD GROVES (EXTN. 5738)

DOC:

SUBJECT: NOTTINGHAM EAST MIDLANDS
AIRPORT NOISE SURVEY AND
ALTERNATIVE NOISE PLAN

REF:
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WARD(S)
AFFECTED: ALL

TERMS OF
REFERENCE: EDS14

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That funding in the sum of £1172.64 be provided as this Council's contribution toward the proposed Noise Survey Analysis and Noise Plan for Nottingham East Midlands Airport (NEMA).

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To seek a member resolution in respect of a request for a funding contribution toward a proposed Noise Survey Analysis and Noise Plan for NEMA.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Council has received a request from Leicestershire County Council for a financial contribution toward a Noise Survey Analysis and Noise Plan for NEMA.
- 3.2 Members may recall that the issue of airport noise controls was considered at Planning and Economic Development Committee on 22nd February 2001 (minute PED/55 refers) where it was resolved to support an approach by North West Leicestershire District Council to the then Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions asking him to invoke the provisions of Section 78 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 in relation to NEMA. This would have made the airport a "designated aerodrome" and enabled the Secretary of State to prohibit specified aircraft from taking off and landing and to limit the number of occasions on which other aircraft were able to take off and land during specified periods. The Secretary of State did not accept the case for designation and the airport has since introduced its own voluntary noise control arrangement, known as the Ten Point Plan.
- 3.3 The Government White Paper on the Future of Air Transport, published in December 2003, supported the expansion of freight operations at the airport but, in paragraph 9.28, indicated that this will need to be accompanied by "stringent controls on night noise in particular and increasingly generous noise insulation and other mitigation measures".

- 3.4 Leicestershire County Council and affected district authorities, including South Derbyshire District Council, have formed a Joint Working Group which first met in 2004. The Group does not consider NEMA's Ten Point Plan to be an effective way to control the effects of night time noise from flights and has therefore appointed consultants, Cole Jarman Associates, to undertake an analysis of existing noise survey data. This will then be taken into account by another consultant, Rupert Taylor, in preparing a "Noise Plan" that will seek to provide a framework for continuous improvement in the effects of noise created by aircraft using NEMA.
- 3.5 The Group will seek to persuade the airport to implement the Noise Plan on a voluntary basis, but if it does not agree to do so will ask the Secretary of State for Transport to "designate" the airport, taking account of changes in circumstances since the previous request was made. These include increases in airport activity, revised forecasts for future air traffic growth, the Government's commitment to creating sustainable communities and its policy of balancing the need for airport expansion against the protection of the environment including the White Paper reference to stringent noise controls at NEMA.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Noise Survey Analysis is anticipated to cost £8195 in total. NEMA has agreed to pay half the cost (£4097.50) with the remaining half shared among the nine other local authorities involved. Leicestershire County Council has agreed to pay half the local authority contribution with the other half being divided among the remaining authorities. This amounts to £227.64 for each authority.
- 4.2 The Noise Plan is expected to cost up to £17000. Leicestershire County Council proposes to pay half of this (£8500) with the remainder divided among the other local authorities, amounting to £945 each.
- 4.3 The total cost to this Council would therefore be £1172.64. It is proposed that this should be jointly funded on a 50/50 basis from the Environmental Health and Planning Service budgets, amounting to £586.32 from each. The Planning contribution will be made in recognition of the fact that the Study may assist the formulation of policies within future Local Development Documents. Both the Environmental Health and Planning contributions can be made from within existing budgets.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 Measures to control noise generated by flights to and from NEMA may contribute toward meeting the Council's Key Aim to "safeguard and enhance a sustainable environment" as identified in the Corporate Plan.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 Measures to control aircraft noise may assist in protecting the amenity and health of local residents.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The Council has through previous resolutions established its support for a greater degree of control over noise generated by aircraft using NEMA and these proposals are intended to assist in working towards that aim.

8.0 Background Papers