

Our Ref: SA/AC/LinkRoad

Leeds City Council
Highways and Transportation
Selectapost 6
Ring Road
Middleton
LEEDS
LS10 4AX

24th February 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: AIRPORT LINK ROAD CONSULTATION

I am writing to object to the three options proposed for the link road to Leeds Bradford International Airport (LBIA) for the following reasons:

Option A

The Council's own leaflet on this consultation acknowledges that this option would have the greatest impact on farm and woodland. With grave concerns already being raised over the Council's Site Allocations Plan and its impact on the greenbelt, it seems counterintuitive for the Council to acknowledge this while then building on the greenbelt at a later date. Additionally, the Horsforth spur for the rail link is estimated to cost £50m – less than the £75m allocated for this option. Furthermore, this will not assist with traffic coming from North Yorkshire, Bradford and those using the A660 from the east.

Option B

This option provides much less traffic relief than option A. While it is less expensive, the main access into the airport will still be from the A658. This seems to go against the entire issue of solving connectivity.

Option C

This option is nowhere near comprehensive enough to solve the connectivity issues facing LBIA. It will not go far enough in improving accessibility for the airport and will provide little traffic relief to local communities. This is a piecemeal approach, which would adversely affect the local school and the side streets which would join the main road. To create a main road in this area would see an increased danger to children leaving the school and families trying to get onto the main road from their street.

In my almost six years as an MP, and indeed as a Councillor prior to this, one of the most consistent issues affecting my constituents has been congestion on the local roads.

P.T.O.

Member of Parliament for Pudsey

Serving Calverley · Farsley · Guiseley · Hawthorpe · Horsforth · Pudsey · Rawdon · Rodley · Stanningley
Swinnow · Tyersal · Woodhall · Yeadon

Please reply to the constituency address: 94A Town Street, Horsforth, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS18 4AP
Tel: 0113 258 5615

Contact by email via www.stuartandrew.com

The congestion on the A65 and A658 has caused rat-running and unacceptable delays in areas such as Scotland Lane in Horsforth and Bayton Lane in Rawdon.

In 2003, a Government White Paper stated that growth in air travel was to continue, and that airports such as LBIA would need improvements to surface access to accommodate that growth. However, since then, there only appear to have been traffic calming measures. For an airport that has such ambitious plans for growth, all three options are completely inadequate.

With that in mind, and reflecting the wishes of many constituents, I do believe that the only solution can be a rail link, with a much more comprehensive transport strategy put in place. The majority of the LBIA traffic comes from the Bradford and North Yorkshire area, which would not be helped by any of the three road link options currently proposed. Indeed, they would serve to cause further congestion, as many people would still have to use the roads through Apperley Bridge, Rawdon and Horsforth to get to the link road.

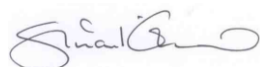
The Airport is already one of the fastest growing UK airports, and supports more than 2,600 local jobs. It contributes more than £118 million to the city region economy. The Department for Transport has forecast that there is potential for an increase in passengers to more than nine million by 2050. With Government investment in northern infrastructure, now is the time to support a rail, rather than road link. A rail link from LBIA to the existing Leeds, Horsforth and Harrogate line would mean a journey time of as little as nine minutes would be possible from the city centre. This can form part of a more joined-up approach to rail travel across Leeds, making use of the benefits of the upcoming HS2 line and the redevelopment of Leeds station. For this opportunity to be missed, by only providing a link road to the Airport would be a real shame.

In meetings with LBIA, they have given me many examples of airlines and inward investment being lost to other airports due to a lack of a rail link.

More widely, many of my constituents have said that they do not feel the consultation has been made without bias. The survey which people have been encouraged to complete does not include a 'reject all' option, and makes no mention of a possible rail link, despite there being wide support for it.

Overall, I feel it is imperative that Government investment in our region is used as effectively as possible, with a long term view in mind. The only logical solution for this is a rail link, which will go a long way towards supporting LBIA in its plans for growth. I would urge the Council to rethink these plans, and liaise with groups like Transport for the North, who have a duty to ensure the very best infrastructure in the north. Connecting one of the north's fastest growing airports surely needs to form part of this investment.

Yours faithfully



Stuart Andrew MP