



2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021

Mr M Sheppard  
Team Leader Strategic Planning  
Department of Place  
Southend on Sea Borough Council  
Civic Centre  
Victoria Avenue  
Southend on Sea  
Essex  
SS2 6ER

Dear [REDACTED]

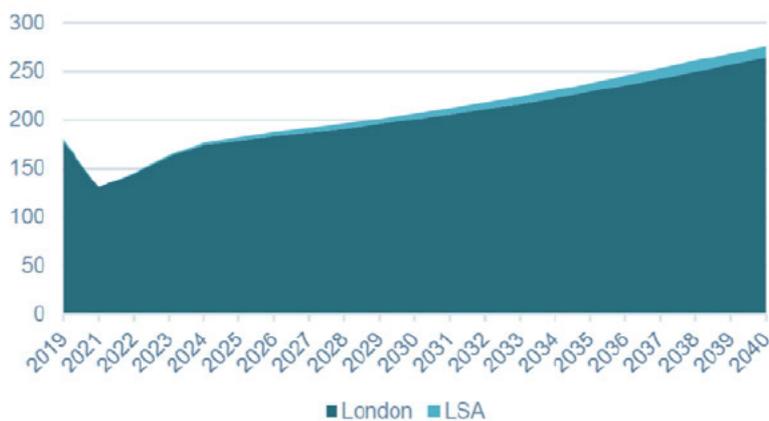
London Southend is a community airport. Over many decades, it has supported military, freight, maintenance and passenger-related flying, contributing enormously to the social and economic life of our region. Although the past year has proved the most difficult in the history of the airport, indeed of international aviation, we are now beginning to see a return to passenger flying. At the same time, we are considering the long term future of the airport. Notwithstanding the current challenge from Covid and the evolving post-Brexit context, we continue to believe the prospects for the airport remain very strong, largely because of the underlying aviation supply and demand dynamics which apply in South East England. Over the next thirty years, we anticipate significant growth at the airport, which will generate exceptional social and economic benefits. At the same time, we need to acknowledge our environmental impacts, to manage and, where possible, mitigate them.

London Southend Airport welcomed 2.2m passengers in 2019, pre-Covid. Although passenger numbers have since fallen significantly, for obvious reasons, a material recovery from Covid is anticipated by 2023-4 by the aviation and investment communities, as well as by the airport.

Without material investment or further planning consents, the existing airport infrastructure (including the passenger terminal, stands and airfield infrastructure) is capable of supporting 3 to 3.5 million passengers per year at a high service level, depending largely on the mix of based and non-based passengers. This level of passenger throughput is expected to be reached in 2026. With investment to construct the developments permitted by the existing planning consents, operating within the existing movement cap of 53,300 movements, 7-8m passengers is possible, depending again on the mix of based and non-based passengers and also on aircraft type. This figure is expected to be reached in 2030.

The airport is very much part of the London aviation "system", with over 60% of departing passengers self-identifying as originating in London in 2019. In 2019, over 180m passengers used London airports. Forecasts by PA consulting suggest that this figure could grow to 275m by 2040. Within that, demand for London Southend is expected to rise towards ca 12m, as shown below.

**Figure 5.1: London passenger forecasts (millions of annual passengers)**



Source: PA Forecasts

Whilst the immediate, Covid-related context raises understandable questions in some quarters about the strength of aviation's recovery, the general view is that the market will return to 2019 levels by 2023-4, led by short haul, leisure traffic, and maintain a strong trajectory thereafter. Over a 30 year time horizon, growth at London Southend to ca. 12 million passengers per year is, therefore, considered credible.

Growth to this level will require new planning consents and as a consequence, the airport plans to bring forward a Masterplan for public consultation later in 2021. This will outline the anticipated physical developments but also provide assessments of the key environmental impacts of growth, including noise, transport, air quality and carbon, as well as the environmental mitigations to ensure that the airport continues to be sustainable as it grows and indeed operates as an exemplar of green airport development. For example, it will outline our intention to be carbon neutral by 2027, to reduce the impact of aircraft noise, to reduce water use and to ensure air quality remains within evolving Government limits as the airport develops.

This masterplan consultation would inform a detailed planning application seeking permission for the airport's growth and development. The application would be supported by detailed environmental, transport and socio-economic assessments of the airport's development.

At the same time, we will continue with the implementation of our Connecting Communities Commitment, ensuring that the airport delivers tangible social benefit to our communities through charitable support, educational alliances, employee volunteering and skills development.

At the economic level, we anticipate a very significant increase in local, regional and national contribution. In 2019, with a throughput of ca 2m passengers, London Southend Airport was the location for 1,500 jobs. More broadly, the airport supported 2,200 direct, indirect and induced Full Time Equivalents (FTEs), over 1,400 of which were in South Essex. It contributed £190m to the UK economy, including £77m in South Essex.

By 2040, with an anticipated throughput of ca 12m passengers, it is calculated by PA Consulting that London Southend Airport will be the location for 6,600 jobs. More broadly, the airport is expected to support 9,300 direct, indirect and induced FTEs, over 6,100 of which will be in South Essex. It is calculated that at that stage it will contribute £1.2bn to the UK economy, including over £0.5bn in South Essex.

Yours sincerely



**Glyn Jones**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Stobart Aviation