



13th December 2024

Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds MP
Secretary of State for Business and Trade and President of the Board of Trade
Department for Business and Trade
Old Admiralty Building
Admiralty Place
London
SW1A 2DY

Dear Secretary of State for Business and Trade

Re: Support from businesses for London Luton Airport's DCO application

On behalf of the Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce (BCC) and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), we wish to co-submit an Open Letter asking the Government to approve London Luton Airport's DCO application for expansion. The DCO is due for a decision from the Secretary of State for Transport by 3rd January 2025.

BCC and LCCI support businesses to grow and prosper in the UK and abroad, representing over 750 businesses in the Bedfordshire area and over 10,000 businesses in London respectively. The contribution of aviation to the local and UK economy is hard to ignore and, as a recent poll by Savanta has highlighted, 83% of London businesses agree that air connectivity is important to London's global competitiveness.

We enclose a copy of the Open Letter, and a list of the businesses who have signed it.

London Luton Airport's expansion proposals will boost UK plc and support the Government's ambitions for national renewal in three significant ways:

1. **Driving the biggest local job creation programme in a generation:** Airport expansion offers Luton an unmatched opportunity for new jobs, economic growth and higher living standards.
2. **A uniquely sustainable approach:** A unique and ground-breaking initiative called the Green Controlled Growth framework (GCG) introduces legally enforceable maximum limits for the airport's noise, greenhouse gases, air quality and surface access impacts.
3. **The UK's most socially impactful airport:** London Luton Airport is the UK's most socially impactful airport, with over £300 million provided to support important Council front-line services since 1998, together with an additional £180 million for vital voluntary, community and charitable organisations. This is 20 times more per passenger per annum than any other UK airport.

Luton is located at the heart of the Golden Triangle of London, Oxford and Cambridge, a place where growth, community investment and highly-skilled job creation is happening at scale. Approval of London Luton Airport's DCO application will help support the delivery of other



major regional projects, such as the East West Railway line and the proposed Universal Studios park near Bedford. The planned theme park could become one of the highest-attended attractions in the UK and, to handle this number of visitors, Bedford and the surrounding regions must have the critical infrastructure required to support it.

The attached Open Letter was signed by 139 business organisations keen to see Luton Rising's investment brought forward in the airport, and the benefits realised in the local and regional economy.

More recently, Luton has received the news about the proposed Stellantis plant closure, which would involve the potential loss of 1,200 direct jobs and knock-on repercussions within the wider supply chain.

Nothing could alleviate those impacts, or replace the jobs currently at risk; nonetheless, we believe there is now added urgency for decisive action to support economic and employment growth within Luton, the surrounding region, and indeed the wider UK, as set out within the Government's Industrial Strategy.

We urge the Government consider the strong support from the national and local business communities when making a decision.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Justin Richardson'.

Justin Richardson
Chief Executive
Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karim Fatehi'.

Karim Fatehi-MBE
Chief Executive
London Chamber of Commerce