From: bim.afolami.mp@parliament.uk
Sent: Fri Jun 24 14:58:19 BST 2022
To: Eddie.Hughes@levellingup.gov.uk
Subject: FW: Bim Afolami MP Constituent Query (Case Ref: BA21114)

From: Bim Afolami <bim.afolami.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 24 June 2022 11:17
To: EEMA_MGove <Michael.Gove@levellingup.gov.uk>
Subject: Bim Afolami MP Constituent Query (Case Ref: BA21114)

Good morning,

Mr Afolami has received the below correspondence from a constituent.

We would be grateful if a response could be provided.

Kind regards,

The Office of Bim Afolami MP
Member of Parliament for Hitchin & Harpenden
www.bimafolami.co.uk

Sign up for my newsletter at www.bimafolami.co.uk/sign-my-newsletter.

From: Andrew Lambourne
Sent: 21 June 2022 04:30
To: COWLEY, Matthew , [redacted]
Subject: Re: Luton Airport Petition (Case Ref: BA21114)

Many thanks Karl, and hello Matthew.

All I would add is that there is a related and outstanding matter in the correspondence between Bim and Robert Courts to do with LLAL: your ref BA22873. We raised the question of whether the Board of LLAL was qualified to spend such huge sums of public money on developing an airport when, under Section 17 of the Airports Act, it apparently does not have the competence to do so.

A lot hangs in what 'managing' an airport entails (in the words of the Act), but the Minister's most recent letter suggests it involves 'operating and developing' that airport, and this is (or ought to be) in the purview of a third party, namely LLAOL, a company qualified to manage an airport.

Our view is that very serious questions indeed need to be raised about this matter, and as we can now see from the accounts, a relentless pursuit of over-rapid expansion in the context of an Airport where the site is not flat and hugely expensive earthworks are needed, where the business model was clearly going to be impacted by Brexit, where the planning conditions have so clearly been disregarded, and where rail only provides access for a small subset of passengers; was likely to end in tears.

Can Bim see a way to up the ante in this? In the old days the National Audit Office could have taken a look: what can be done now and how, when Localism goes off the rails as it so clearly has in the case of Luton?

Best regards,

Andrew

Andrew Lambourne

Chair, LADACAN
www.ladacan.org

On 20 Jun 2022, at 22:36, [redacted] wrote:

Hi Matthew

I didn't realise before I sent you the attached email that the London Luton Airport Limited accounts for 31 March 2021 had surfaced.

To give you a flavour, the auditors consider the valuation of the airport asset is overstated, there's a colossal £186m write off of DART expenditure (leading to a £100m loss for the year despite the [disputed] upward revaluation of the airport) and there are various statements that it's materially uncertain whether the company is a going concern given the current uncertainty (and that's before the current cost of living and airport management problems have been factored in)! Don't forget DART isn't even in service and this is where the Council claim there was a 'robust' business case.

But…still the company is investing taxpayers money in DART and more particularly on the DCO (where the debacle with the DART business case doesn't bode well for the DCO business case), thus reinforcing its dependency on the airport, directly contrary to what the Minister said they had to address.

This is public money being poured down the drain in circumstances where there's no imperative for Luton Airport to grow in the way the Council is choosing - firstly, there's plenty of capacity at the other London airports, if it's actually needed, where private enterprise takes the risk.

I would urge you and Bim to press the Minister for an answer which can only really be to force LLAL (or Luton Rising as it likes to call itself) to stop wasting public money on the DCO and divert its energies to building back better a more diverse economy. Inaction by the Minster will be gratefully accepted by Luton Borough Council as consent to continue onwards on its current trajectory where I'm sure we can expect another colossal write off (they even allude to it if the 19m application is turned down - perhaps preparing the ground to blame central government for all its ills) and, as Bim has articulated in his notes on his opposition to growth at Luton Airport, massive environmental damage to his constituents.

I've copied this to Andrew Lambourne who I know has been liaising with Bim on other Luton Airport management and growth issues so he can add any comments he wishes.

Kind regards

Karl

From: Karl BT [redacted]
Sent: 17 June 2022 10:06
To: Matthew Cowley <matthew.cowley@parliament.uk>
Subject: Re: Luton Airport Petition (Case Ref: BA21114)

Thanks Matthew

I trust you are well too. I'm beginning to think the Minister doesn't want to answer this question. Equally, I've seen no progress either at the Council to address this either, yet they continue to pour money into facilitating the expansion of the airport (£600,000 set aside for the planning inquiry last month).

Kind regards

Karl

Sent from my iPhone

On 16 Jun 2022, at 11:13, Matthew Cowley <matthew.cowley@parliament.uk> wrote:

Hi Karl,

Hope you are well.

I am still chasing for a response from the Department on this and will send it over to you as soon as I have received it.

Kind regards,

Matthew

Matthew Cowley
Senior Communications Officer to Bim Afolami MP
Member of Parliament for Hitchin & Harpenden

From: [redacted]
Sent: 30 May 2022 10:27
To: COWLEY, Matthew
Subject: RE: Luton Airport Petition

Hi Matthew

Any response from the Department. I appreciate I'm not front and centre of their to do lists but I would appreciate a response - there doesn't seem any point instructing a local authority to do something in exchange for being bailed out if it can then just ignore the instruction. What's worse, in this case, is that Luton Borough Council is committing millions of pounds of public money to a potential white elephant whilst local services are cut back and help to those most in need is reduced.

Kind regards

Karl

From: COWLEY, Matthew <matthew.cowley@parliament.uk>
Sent: 10 May 2022 13:15
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Luton Airport Petition

Hi Karl,

I haven't heard anything yet but I will chase for a response this week.

Kind regards,

Matthew

Matthew Cowley

[Embedded Image]**Senior Communications Officer for Bim Afolami MP**
Member of Parliament for Hitchin & Harpenden

matthew.cowley@parliament.uk
01582 310167

Get updates from Bim: https://www.bimafolami.co.uk/sign-my-newsletter.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04 May 2022 19:09
To: COWLEY, Matthew <matthew.cowley@parliament.uk>
Subject: RE: Luton Airport Petition

Hi Matthew

Did you receive any response from the Department?

Kind regards

Karl

From: COWLEY, Matthew <matthew.cowley@parliament.uk>
Sent: 08 March 2022 11:17
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Luton Airport Petition

Hi Karl,

Please accept my apologies - we are a staff member down at the moment and I must have missed this when you sent it previously.

We'll put this to the Department and ask for a response.

Kind regards,

Matthew

Matthew Cowley

[Embedded Image]**Senior Communications Officer for Bim Afolami MP**
Member of Parliament for Hitchin & Harpenden

matthew.cowley@parliament.uk
01582 310167

Get updates from Bim: https://www.bimafolami.co.uk/sign-my-newsletter.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03 March 2022 12:10
To: COWLEY, Matthew <matthew.cowley@parliament.uk>
Subject: RE: Luton Airport Petition

Hi Matthew

I wondered if there was any mileage in Bim pursuing the points I made in my email below regarding the paradox of Luton Rising (aka London Luton Airport Limited) submitting a planning application to grow the airport in circumstances where the Government has asked Luton Borough Council (which owns London Luton Airport Limited) to present a plan to reduce its exposure to the airport. I'd appreciate it if you could let me know one way or the other.

Kind regards

Karl

From: [redacted]
Sent: 14 February 2022 15:40
To: 'COWLEY, Matthew' <matthew.cowley@parliament.uk>
Subject: RE: Luton Airport Petition

Hi Matthew

Thanks for this. The Harpenden Society is about to send an email out to members inviting them to sign Bim's petition (as part of a wider email about responding to the airport's consultation). Hopefully, they'll be a good response. We'll remind members when we circulate the Society's views on the expansion plans (after the exhibition in Harpenden that we're encouraging members to attend).

On this issue, I am somewhat perplexed that this planning proposal is going ahead given the requirement in Kemi Badenoch's letter of 8 December 2021 enclosing the CIPFA financial review that the Council's response:

'address a specific condition of the capitalisation direction, specifically around your ability to present a plan to Government for reducing the Council's financial exposure to the airport, with the intention of it resulting in agreement between the Authority and the Secretary of State to address the review's recommendations.'

Clearly, the funds required for this consultation and the planning application will further increase the Council's financial exposure to the airport, as will the works required to build the new terminal etc, which seems to fly in the face of the requirement. What can't the government just tell them to stop, say that this requirement has been dropped or publish the Council's response that meets this requirement so Luton residents (especially) have a degree of transparency they're denied by their own Council.

Kind regards

Karl

From: COWLEY, Matthew <matthew.cowley@parliament.uk>
Sent: 11 February 2022 15:53
To: [redacted]
Subject: Luton Airport Petition

Dear Karl,

I hope you are well.

Bim has asked me to thank you for your time last week. One of the things Bim wants to push is his petition against expansion, which he will deliver to the Secretary of State. We would be grateful if you could circulate this. The petition can be found at www.bimafolami.co.uk/stop-luton-expansion.

Kind regards,

Matthew

Matthew Cowley

[Embedded Image]**Senior Communications Officer for Bim Afolami MP**
Member of Parliament for Hitchin & Harpenden

matthew.cowley@parliament.uk
01582 310167

Get updates from Bim: https://www.bimafolami.co.uk/sign-my-newsletter.

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