

Update Note on the DART:

On Day 5 at the start of Week 2 (Climate Change session) the Inspector Panel sought an update on the DART (Direct Air-Rail Transit).

Luton Rising the Council owned airport company who are developing the DART announced last week that an official opening date for the Luton DART infrastructure project will be made in early 2023.

The Luton DART is a new cable-hauled fast passenger transit which will connect Luton Airport Parkway station to London Luton Airport, in just over three minutes.

It will offer direct travel to London Luton Airport from more than 60 stations across the Thameslink & East Midlands Railway network, replacing the existing bus transfer service. The journey from London St Pancras International to London Luton Airport terminal will take just over 30 minutes on the fastest trains.

Additional key objectives are to:

- Improve London Luton Airport's competitive position within the London aviation system
- Deliver an improved passenger experience at London Luton Airport
- Support the future sustainable growth of London Luton Airport

Graham Olver, Chief Executive Officer of Luton Rising, said: "The Luton DART is one of the biggest infrastructure projects ever undertaken in Luton. Testing of the system is significantly advanced, but there remain several important tasks that we are working to complete with our partners, which relate mostly to complexities and alignment of the system's revenue and ticketing arrangements. This will also allow us more time to complete all the regulatory, operational and health and safety testing."

Mr Olver added:

"We had hoped for an announcement of opening in 2022. We are eager to open the Luton DART and will do so as soon as we are assured that passengers will get the world-class service they deserve."

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