

17 March 2023

Planning Department  
London Borough of Newham  
Newham Dockside  
1000 Dockside Road  
London  
E16 2QU

**Ref: 22/03045/VAR (London City Airport: Planning Proposal)**

Sent via email: [Liam.Mcfadden@newham.gov.uk](mailto:Liam.Mcfadden@newham.gov.uk)

Dear Liam,

The CBI welcomes the opportunity to respond to London City Airport's Planning application, submitted to the London Borough of Newham (LBN) on Monday 19 December 2022. The CBI has previously responded to London City Airport's initial consultation carried out last year.

We are proud to count among our members, many of the UK's airports, including London City Airport. Airports and the aviation industry more broadly play a vital role in supporting the country's labour market, while enhancing the nation's international competitiveness. Businesses also depend on a prosperous aviation sector for their operations. Now more than ever, it is important to recognise the role the UK's aviation sector plays in driving economic growth and productivity, especially in the context of the post-coronavirus economic recovery.

#### **About the CBI:**

Across the UK, the CBI speaks on behalf of 190,000 businesses of all sizes and sectors, employing nearly 7 million people between them. That's about one third of the private sector workforce. With offices in the UK as well as representation in Brussels, Washington, Beijing and New Delhi, the CBI communicates the British business voice around the world.

#### **London City Airport's<sup>1</sup> role in the local community, London and the United Kingdom**

Located in the London Borough of Newham, London City Airport is major centre of employment for the local area, supporting jobs, while also helping to drive inward investment, and boost economic growth across the borough. With Newham one of the most deprived boroughs in the capital<sup>2</sup>, it is vital that key local businesses, such as City Airport are granted the means to develop, while continuing to meet future passenger demand.

The airport has demonstrated that it can play an important role in supporting local residents – its partnership with One Newham Work<sup>3</sup> is an example of how the airport trains and recruits local residents. The proposed changes outlined in City Airport's planning application are forecast to create an additional 2,200 jobs throughout the capital, including 1,340 additional jobs at the airport itself – many of which will be available for residents of Newham and East London.

Throughout London more broadly, City Airport is closely aligned to the mayor's employment and skills agenda, accredited to both the London Living Wage and the Mayor's Good Work Standard. City Airport's proximity to London's Central Activity Zone<sup>4</sup> (CAZ) is one of airport's key advantages when compared to other airport's in

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<sup>1</sup> Note: London City Airport, London City, LCY, and City Airport will be used interchangeably throughout this Planning Application Response

<sup>2</sup> London Borough of Newham Deprivation statistics: <https://www.newham.info/deprivation/reports/#/view-report/543e847c672343ad95ff1af4eab9a1d9/E09000025/G3>

<sup>3</sup> London City Airport Community Update Newsletter, August 2022

<sup>4</sup> The CAZ incorporates the City of London, West End, and Canary Wharf among other areas of economic activity within the zone

and around the capital, for both business and leisure travellers alike.

In 2020, a report commissioned by London City Airport<sup>5</sup> on the importance of aviation to the UK economy made clear the centrality of the aviation sector in supporting the UK's post-coronavirus economic recovery.

Among its key findings, the report states:

In 2019, the aviation sector contributed £97 billion to the UK's economy, with domestic aviation alone accounting for £15 billion, including £4 billion to London.

The aviation sector directly or indirectly supports over 1.3 million UK jobs.

64% of UK business leaders see air travel as key to their future prospects.

88% of leaders of businesses with over 250 employees believe air travel is important to the future success of their business.

Additionally, three key facets of the government's agenda undoubtedly depend on a robust aviation sector – levelling up, net zero and a Global Britain. To be a global free trading powerhouse requires an efficient and prosperous aviation sector, with the sector having a significant role to play in levelling up communities across the UK.

### **Enabling long-term growth at London City Airport through greater flexibility**

The coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on the international travel sector and threatens to cause a long-term decline in the UK's global competitiveness. With passenger numbers continuing to recover following the pandemic, and demand anticipated to return to pre-pandemic levels by 2024, London City Airport needs to be able to cater for this demand over the long-term.

London City Airport's latest proposals<sup>6</sup> - since amended for this Application – presented below will enable the airport to meet projected passenger demand, and future proof the airport's operations until 2031. These proposals will also make the airport more commercially attractive for airlines.

Increasing the current planning cap on the number of passengers from 6.5 million to 9 million passengers per annum

Extending operating hours on Saturday from the current closing of 12:30pm to 6:30pm, with an additional hour in the summer for arriving flights only, up to a maximum of 12

Allowing three additional flights in the first half hour of operations on Mondays to Saturdays (6.30am-6:59am) with a new limit of nine flights instead of the current limit of six flights

Mandating that only cleaner, quieter, new generation aircraft will be allowed to operate in any newly extended hours on a Saturday, and for any new flights in the first half hour of the day.

City Airport also plays an integral role in enabling businesses to connect across the country, with key routes to major centres of economic activity, including Aberdeen, Belfast and Edinburgh.

The CBI supports the airport's proposals outlined above, as this will enable the airport to play an even greater role in supporting the local community and wider London and UK economies respectively. These proposals also help the airport to pursuing its ambitious decarbonisation agenda and enables it to plan for the future by giving greater clarity to its future operations.

### **Sustainable aviation**

We welcome London City's ambitious plan to become to London's first net zero airport by 2030, in line with Mayor of London's own objective of the capital becoming a net zero carbon city by 2030<sup>7</sup>. An achievement that would not only further enhance the capital's own environment credentials, but something the LBN would be able to showcase. Placing the airport, the borough and London at the forefront of this transition to sustainable aviation.

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<sup>5</sup> London City Airport Business Travel Economic Report, October 12, 2020: <https://media.londoncityairport.com/business-air-travel/>

<sup>6</sup> London City Airport planning consultation July 2022: <https://consultation.londoncityairport.com/key-documents/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/climate-change/zero-carbon-london/pathways-net-zero-carbon-2030>

It is worth noting the measures the CBI outlined in its response to the Department for Transport's Jet Zero consultation<sup>8</sup>, which will help achieve substantial and sustained emissions reductions, creating a more sustainable aviation sector, these include:

- A long-term, practical net zero aviation, with clear, ambitious objectives that are reviewed every five years
- Robust policy frameworks and increased funding to support the development of a domestic Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) market
- Investing in wider aviation and aerospace technologies, including electric and hydrogen
- Supporting consumers to make informed decisions in the transition to zero emission flight
- Showing global leadership post-Cop26
- Revising membership and terms of reference for the Jet Zero Council.

We welcome the airport's commitment that only cleaner, quieter, new generation aircraft will be allowed to operate in any newly extended periods.

### **Additional Comments**

Finally, we also support the airport's commitment to improving sound insulation through its sound insulation scheme for residential and public buildings. The airport also continues to show its commitment to investing in the local community, through its Community Fund, supporting local projects and amenity improvements. Not to mention, through its Transport Fund, seeking to improve local connectivity – benefiting local residents and wider the community.

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**The CBI welcomes further engagement with the London Borough of Newham as part of this application process.** For further details or to discuss, please contact: Simon Dishman, Senior Policy Adviser, London [Simon.Dishman@cbi.org.uk](mailto:Simon.Dishman@cbi.org.uk) | 07342 085 338

Yours sincerely,

Anneka Hendrick,  
CBI Regional Director, London

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<sup>8</sup> <https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/39919/pdf/>