

Liam McFadden
Director of Planning and Development
London Borough of Newham
Newham Dockside
Building 1000
Dockside Road
London, E16 2QU

17 March 2023

Dear Mr McFadden,

Local planning authority reference: **22/03045/VAR**

I am writing to you to confirm BusinessLDN's support for the above planning application by London City Airport (LCY). BusinessLDN (formerly London First) is a campaigning business membership organization made up of over 170 members spanning a wide range of economic sectors. Our mission is to make London the best city in the world in which to do business, working with and for the whole UK. We campaign to tackle today's challenges and harness the power of our cross sector membership to shape the future of the capital. We support business to succeed – locally, nationally, and globally.

London City Airport is both a national asset that helps to ensure the capital thrives economically, and a local asset that has helped to develop East London into growing and dynamic region. It is clear that we should continue to make sure we are getting the best possible value from this infrastructure. Facilitating an increase in passengers from 6.5 million per annum to 9 million per annum and extending operations in Saturday afternoons and early mornings whilst not increasing the annual number of permitted flights, is forecast to add over £700 million annually to the London economy. This additional economic growth would create over 2,000 jobs for local people in an area of significant deprivation – a tangible example of the private sector helping to level up.

We also welcome the fact that these proposals will yield economic benefits for local communities alongside improved environmental performance. It is encouraging that the proposals allow only the cleanest, quietest aircraft to operate during any newly extended operating hours. This will help to reduce the noise impact locally throughout the week as these new aircraft are deployed in the wider operating schedule as well as on weekends. These benefits will be realised earlier as airlines are incentivised to replace the older aircraft sooner than they otherwise would.

Likewise, London City Airport already has an enviable record on surface access with the highest share of public transport use of any UK airport. That this proposed increase in passengers will be delivered without additional car parking and accompanied by a target of 80 per cent of passengers choosing sustainable transport modes to and from the airport is important.

London and the UK stand at a crossroads. Amidst a cost-of-living crisis, the capital continues on the bumpy road to recovery following the pandemic and Global Britain continues to find its feet post-Brexit. In this context greater international connectivity will be fundamental to London's future success. By enabling business and leisure travellers to fly right into the heart of the capital, London City Airport supports all of this and more. Now is the time to be investing in the future. Opening up new business and trade routes, and opportunities for international tourism, whilst also knitting the country closer together through domestic air links will support local, regional, and national growth.

London City Airport's proposed operating periods and increased passenger cap, with improved environmental mitigations, additional funding of education, skills and training of up to £1.9m and an enhanced Community Fund of £3.85m over 10 years will enable more jobs and more growth, more sustainably. It is, therefore, a proposal to be supported.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Tyndall
Programme Director, Transport
BusinessLDN