

STG 12 AIR TRANSPORT

3.31 The Council will oppose further developments likely to lead to an expansion in services or an increase in flights to and from Heathrow Airport, or any increase in commercial or private helicopter activity over the Borough. It will seek a ban on night flights.

3.32 The Council is concerned that any increase in flights over the Borough will lead to increased noise

and, in the case of Heathrow, additional traffic within the Borough and increased threat to safety of

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residents. In addition to their environmental impact the Council recognises that airports can have a

powerful effect on the type and level of economic activity and urbanisation and this must be a major

consideration in their siting and expansion. It would be bad planning to encourage more airport activity in a heavily populated 'overheated' area such as west London where it would put large numbers of people at increased risk of a major accident and exacerbate development pressures, transport congestion and labour shortages whilst perpetuating the east/west imbalance in London.

The Council supports the development of regional airports. Within the South East it considers that there would be regional planning benefits in catering for expected growth in airport activity in less buoyant parts of the region and that all alternatives should be thoroughly investigated to this end.

The Council is opposed to the development and use of further supersonic aircraft because of their excessive noise nuisance. Although Heathrow Airport is outside the administrative boundaries of the Borough, the Council will oppose further developments likely to lead to an increase in flights

or

services. The air transport policies of the Plan will only be relevant where there is a need for planning permission, or where the Council is consulted on land use, or environmental conditions.