



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE)

AIRTRACK CONSULTATION

17th March 2008

KEY ISSUE

To respond to the AirTrack Consultation.

SUMMARY

As a result of the discussions at the 4th February Local Committee and the decision to defer giving a view on this consultation at that time, it was agreed that CJ Associates and BAA should be invited back to this meeting to present the various options and the Local Committee will be asked to formulate a response which will be incorporated into the County's formal response.

For ease of reference the report circulated with the 4th February agenda is repeated below with some minor alterations **in emboldened**.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee for Spelthorne is asked to

- (i) **Note the options being suggested and formulate a response to the consultation.**

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This is an initial phase of consultation, covering the proposed new works for Heathrow Airtrack between Heathrow and Staines, and in Staines town centre. CJ Associates are inviting feedback from statutory

consultees and the general public over an 8 week period commencing 2nd February 2008. **(This has been extended by two weeks following the addition of the addendum to the consultation concerning the option for overhead electrification).** A further period of consultation is anticipated in the Autumn of 2008 prior to the Transport and Works Act order application in February 2009. This second phase of consultation will consider the wider scheme, from Heathrow to Reading, Guildford and Waterloo, taking in any works which Network Rail identify as necessary and requiring TWA powers.

CJ Associates will be giving a presentation **with options** to the Local Committee and Members are asked to agree a response. Iain Reeve, SCC Head of Transport and Chairman of the AirTrack Forum will also be present at the meeting to give advice to Members. **It is hoped that prior to the meeting Members will have had the opportunity of a site visit to Stockley Park to see the overhead electrification lines. At the time of writing this site visit is in the process of being arranged.**

2 ANALYSIS

Surrey County Council was a founder member of the AirTrack Forum, and continues to chair the Forum. Essentially it was formed to promote the development of an AirTrack project.

AirTrack, now called Heathrow Airtrack by BAA, is a rail scheme to connect Heathrow Airport by rail with Waterloo, Guildford and Reading. Much of the route would run on the existing rail network, but it would require a new section of railway running south from Heathrow Terminal 5 to join the existing Windsor to Staines Line. There are a number of other elements required in the vicinity of Staines, such as a new station in Staines adjacent to the High Street, a new section of line linking the Windsor line to the Reading line in Staines town centre, and some remodelling of the existing Staines station. These will be explained at the meeting.

In late 2006, BAA announced that it would promote a Transport and Works Act order for Heathrow Airtrack.

BAA has appointed Network Rail, Halcow as Engineer, and Temple as Environmental consultant to assist in the development of the scheme. CJ Associates have now evaluated a number of options for the new works between Heathrow and Staines, and are ready to commence an initial phase of public consultation on these options. Their programme is to develop their preferred scheme following this initial consultation, engage in wider consultation on the whole project in late 2008, and submit an application for the TWA order in February 2009. We can deal with the programme further in the meeting.

3 OPTIONS

3.1 These will be set out in the presentation at the meeting.

4 CONSULTATIONS

4.1 **Members received the consultation brochure at the meeting of the Local Committee on 4th February.** Their purpose of the briefing is effectively two-fold. Firstly, BAA believe that it is important that Surrey County Councillors are given an opportunity to be briefed on the Heathrow Airtrack proposals such that they are in possession of the facts in the event that any members of the public wish to discuss the proposals with them. Secondly, it provides an opportunity for Members to understand the proposals such that they can provide input into Surrey County Council's response as a statutory consultee regarding the scheme.

CJ Associates have already briefed David Willshire MP and Spelthorne Borough Councillors.

In addition the following public exhibitions were held:

- Staines - Spelthorne Leisure Centre, Knowle Green, Staines, TW18 1AJ.
Thursday 7th February 2008 - 4:00pm to 7:00pm for Key Opinion Fomers (such as council members)
- Friday 8th February 2008 - 12:00 midday to 8:00 pm
- Saturday 9th February 2008 - 10:00am to 2:00 pm

- Stanwell - Stanwell Moor Village Hall, Horton Road, Stanwell Moor, TW19 6AR.
Friday 15th February 2008 - 12:00 midday to 8:00 pm.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Not applicable to this report.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

CJ Associates will be undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment commencing in the spring of 2008, on the preferred scheme which is developed following this initial period of consultation.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Not applicable to this report.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Local Committee **will have the opportunity to consider the options** and are asked to comment and make their views known to the County's Executive.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To enable the County Councillors representing Spelthorne to comment upon the Airtrack consultations.

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 10.1 The Local Committee's views will be submitted to the Council's Executive for inclusion with the County's corporate response to consultation

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