



UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Chief Executive: Dawn French

7th June 2021

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State for Housing,
Communities and Local
Government

Your ref:

Our ref: JC/JL

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Transport

Please ask for Cllr John Lodge on [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs,

APPEAL REF: APP/C1570/W/20/3256619 LONDON STANSTED AIRPORT, ESSEX

You will have heard about the decisions of PINS, issued on Wednesday 26 May, to allow an appeal by Stansted Airport Ltd (STAL) and to make a full award of costs against the Council. This was a most disappointing outcome for the council, for our residents and those of neighbouring districts and for the future of our grandchildren and great grandchildren.

What is most distressing is that the decision has been taken in full knowledge that the Government have accepted the high level recommendations of the Climate Change Committee on the 6th Carbon Budget (6CB), meaning a 78% cut in carbon emissions compared to 1990 levels by 2035, including International Aviation and Shipping (IAS), and that a draft Statutory Instrument has been laid in the Commons and Lords which is expected to come into force by the end of June. PINS did invite comments in writing arising from the government policy announcement but did not re-open the Inquiry to hear further evidence on the significance of this policy change, which, in terms, would effectively preclude any headroom in the carbon budget for any additional emissions arising from additional airport capacity beyond that already committed. The summary of the council's further written submissions on carbon emissions was to the point: "The new reality is that there is no way of getting aviation to play its role in achieving the 2035 target apart from aviation demand management. Not to acknowledge this is to be in denial."

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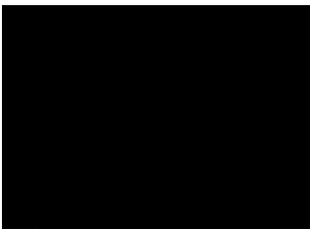
I acknowledge that with the decision having been issued, the council has a right of appeal by way of a JR, but that will not address the much more fundamental point that my residents express: why was this decision taken just before new legislation comes into force setting out a new direction of travel for the protection of our planet? The government has promised to publish its Transport Decarbonisation Plan within the next few weeks and to consult on net zero aviation. If planning controls can only manage the consequences against a policy framework that must effectively be already under review and not respond to the policy changes that will shortly become imperative, will you commit to aviation demand management to prevent the implementation of the planning permission for expansion of the airport over the next 10 to 15 years?

Uttlesford Council's planning committee very thoroughly weighed up the evidence before them but were also mindful of the issues coming down the line; they wanted to exercise their place making function and community leadership role fully, responsibly and with due consideration to the future of all: the residents, businesses, nature and climate. We are distraught that PINS did not or were not able to do likewise; moreover, we are outraged that they would not see how challenging this decision had been for elected members nor how carefully they had approached it and awarded full costs against the council. This is an insult to local democracy and I would again urge you to intervene.

I would very much welcome the opportunity to discuss this more fully with you, to introduce you to those passionate about protecting our planet and to the children who understand the impact of our actions may be better than many of us.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



John Lodge
Leader