

Summary & key facts about the Southampton Airport Draft Noise Action Plan for 2010 – 2015

For public consultation – 11th June – 2nd October 2009

What is the Noise Action Plan?

This plan identifies the actions and measures that Southampton Airport is taking to minimise the impact of noise on local communities. The plan covers the period from 2010 to 2015, and is in draft format at the moment, for public consultation.

Why is the plan being developed?

The Government has asked for Noise Action Plans to be developed around airports, roads and railways as part of the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006, co-ordinated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). These regulations state that public consultation of the Noise Action Plan is required, and this will take place between 11th June and 2nd October 2009 for the Southampton Airport Noise Action Plan.

What are the current activities to minimise noise around Southampton Airport?

- No night flights (excluding the legally permitted exceptions such as medical flights and delayed scheduled aircraft).
- No helicopter movements during the night time period.
- Restrictions on the number of helicopter movements per year.
- Adherence to the agreed noise preferred routes.
- Ban on noisier aircraft types.
- Higher charges for noisier aircraft types.
- Dedicated Noise & Flight Evaluation Unit to give feedback to the community and investigate and monitor complaints.

What are the proposed activities to minimise noise between 2010 and 2015?

In addition to the above actions already in place, we will:

- Invest in two mobile noise monitors and identify the most effective process for using this equipment.
- Undertake an annual review of the aircraft charging scheme relating to noisier aircraft types.
- Establish a committee to monitor airline noise and track keeping performance, which will include representatives from National Air Traffic Services (NATS), and airlines who use the airport.
- Continue to identify, monitor and implement (where appropriate) the arrival and departure routes which cause the least disturbance to local communities whilst taking full consideration of any safety, environmental and operational constraints.
- Commission and publish noise maps for 2011 in 2012, to monitor the effectiveness of the measures in this Noise Action Plan.
- Install a new aircraft 'multilateration' tracking system to evaluate and assess flight routings, particularly for aircraft at lower levels (within close proximity of the airport) to allow enhanced feedback to be given to the community.

What areas are the noise minimisation activities based on?

In compliance with the Noise Directive, this Noise Action Plan focuses on areas most affected by noise from the airport, as identified by specific noise contour maps. The full maps are available in the Noise Action Plan. Some noise minimisation activities will also help manage noise in areas outside of the contour area. The maps use a defined methodology as stipulated by DEFRA, and are referred to as 'Lden noise contours'.

Where can I get a copy of the plan and give my feedback?

The Noise Action Plan and feedback form is available online at www.southamptonairport.com/noise. The website also features a link to the GfK NOP website. GfK are co-ordinating the analysis of feedback for the consultation. Feedback can be completed online via this link.

If you do not have access to the internet please contact the Southampton Airport Noise & Flight Evaluation Unit in the following ways:

Telephone: 023 8062 7070

E-mail: sou_community@baa.com

Post: Noise & Flight Evaluation Unit, Southampton Airport, Wide Lane, Southampton, Hampshire, SO18 2NL

How will the feedback be analysed?

The public consultation ends on 2nd October 2009, all feedback will be analysed by GfK NOP, an independent consultant. Following the consultation period, Southampton Airport will carefully consider all the views expressed and comments received, and where possible, reflect these in the final plan. The Noise Action Plan will then be submitted for approval to the Secretary of State for Transport by 30th November 2009.

When will the revised Noise Action Plan be published?

Following approval by the Secretary of State for Transport, the revised Noise Action Plan will be published on the airport website - www.southamptonairport.com, in early 2010.