

# UPDATE: Southampton Airport's Proposed Runway Extension



## SUMMARY

In November 2019, Southampton Airport (SIA) submitted a planning application to Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) seeking permission for a 164-metre extension to the northern end of our runway. It is a short extension but it is **absolutely critical to our viability as a regional airport**.

Since then, both the airport and the Council have continued to review feedback received during the consultation, and as is normal for a planning application such as this, we have continued to discuss additional updates, modifications, and clarifications that could further improve the proposals in response to matters raised.

As a result, we have now **submitted additional information to the Council**, which we would like to share with you in this newsletter. We thank everyone that has taken the time to submit feedback as it is really helping to shape our application further.

## PLANNING UPDATE

In support of a request from Eastleigh Borough Council that we consider what further steps could be taken to manage and mitigate potential noise from the proposed runway extension, we have now put forward a further proposal geared to limit the effects of aircraft noise upon residents and schools using a 'noise cap'.

We have now provided additional information to the Council which shows the aircraft noise effects if passenger numbers grow by 50% from 2 million to 3 million passengers per annum. This is significantly less than in the original application which was 150% to 5 million passengers per annum, so the new information shows significantly reduced noise impacts.

We expect this information to be used by the Council to propose a **maximum noise cap on the airport, as part of the S106 agreement, that will limit noise impacts over a geographic area**. It is a significant change, as our application would **provide a positive control over noise that does not currently exist**. It will be for the Council to determine the exact noise cap when it determines our planning application. Should the runway extension be approved with this noise limit, we anticipate that **these maximum noise levels would not be reached until 2033**.

We are also improving the value of compensation being offered as part of the proposed Noise Insulation Policy beyond the industry standard. We will be taking steps to proactively invite residents to apply when they qualify and offering to assist with the application process.

The Council is obliged to extend the consultation period following submission of this data. You can read more on their website –

[eastleigh.gov.uk/planning-and-building/southampton-airport-planning-application](http://eastleigh.gov.uk/planning-and-building/southampton-airport-planning-application)



## WHY DOES SOUTHAMPTON AIRPORT NEED A RUNWAY EXTENSION?

Our runway extension proposal is no longer about the growth but the survival of the airport.

Our plans will not lead to the expansion of the airport, as all work will remain within our current boundaries.

At the start of 2020, two thousand jobs were reliant, either directly or indirectly, on the airport. However, following the loss of Flybe – which provided 80% of our routes – and the unprecedented impact of the pandemic, the **viability of Southampton Airport is in doubt**.

These events have forced the airport, and the businesses working with us, to make redundancies.

Unless a runway extension is granted, the airport may be forced to close and all of the remaining jobs will be at risk.

The airport's runway length is no longer suitable for today's modern airline fleets.

Although aircraft such as Boeing 737s and Airbus 320s have operated at Southampton, the distance they can fly and the number of passengers on board is limited by our runway length, making their operations uneconomical.

The additional runway length will make the airport viable for airlines desperate to fly from Southampton – **guaranteeing our survival, safeguarding regional connectivity, and protecting thousands of jobs across the South** linked to our operations.



The stark reality of the moment: our airport is nearly empty, even at peak periods

### What are the benefits?



**Survival** – The runway extension is essential for the airport's survival. Extending the runway will make the airport viable for a wider range of airlines, guaranteeing our survival.



**Economic Recovery** – Our runway extension will deliver a £15m investment, significantly growing the local economy and leading the South's economic recovery following the damaging effects of the Coronavirus pandemic.



**Fewer journeys to London** – With a longer runway offering more destinations, thousands of passengers from our local area will be able to fly from Southampton instead of London airports, reducing carbon emissions and traffic on our roads.



**Jobs** – Extending the runway will create hundreds of new jobs at the airport. However, if the extension is refused, the remaining 600 jobs at the airport – and the thousands of jobs reliant on our operations – will be put at risk.



**Regional Connectivity** – Regional connectivity is critical to economic success. A longer runway will allow us to offer new destinations, creating exciting opportunities for business and leisure.



**Health** – The airport provides an essential lifeline to Southampton Hospital for patients in the Channel Islands – which proved critical during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## PLANNING APPLICATION AND NEXT STEPS

The additional noise data has now been submitted to Eastleigh Borough Council and can be viewed here: [eastleigh.gov.uk/planning-and-building/southampton-airport-planning-application](https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/planning-and-building/southampton-airport-planning-application).

Eastleigh Borough Council has re-opened the consultation window to allow people to review this information and provide feedback.

We will continue to review all the feedback received. It is anticipated that Eastleigh Borough Council will determine the planning application in the coming months.

If you have any further questions, or would like any more information regarding our runway proposals, please contact Southampton Airport's project team via [consultation@southamptonairport.com](mailto:consultation@southamptonairport.com).