



Wates House  
Ground Floor  
Wallington Hill  
Fareham  
Hampshire  
PO16 7BJ

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Fao: Mr Craig Morrison, Planning Specialist, Eastleigh Borough Council  
Email: [craig.morrison@eastleigh.gov.uk](mailto:craig.morrison@eastleigh.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Morrison,

**Re: Application No: F/19/86707 Address: Southampton International Airport,  
Mitchell Way, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO18 2HG.**

Hampshire Chamber of Commerce is fully supportive of the planning application for Southampton International Airport.

It is essential that the planning application for the runway extension at Southampton International Airport is approved for the future of the airport following the impact of the Flybe collapse and impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Southampton International Airport has a lot of potential and it is welcome news that Eastern Airways will be operating a new Gibraltar service from Southampton, as well as the French destinations of Nantes and Rennes and that BA CityFlyer will be operating services flying from Southampton to destinations in Spain, Italy, Portugal, Greece, France and Germany at weekends. This demonstrates how UK regional airports, and Southampton in particular, play a vital role in direct connectivity in the UK, The Channel Islands, and in Europe, supporting the local business community, the public and the tourism sector.

Having the extension to the runway Southampton International Airport would have the capability to look at securing additional carriers which will help the facility remain viable and develop further. The importance of this decision extends beyond the livelihoods of those employed at the airport and in its direct supply chain.

The Solent business community depends on a well-connected region. It is vital that we are connected with our customers, our suppliers and our employees at sites nationwide. It is of course equally important that we retain direct links with international markets, which will in turn aid inwards investment into the surrounding area. A local airport represents a key strength for the Solent area in ensuring these connections can be maintained and disruption minimised.

As the UK's gateway to the world, the Solent plays a significant role in international trade activities. Southampton International Airport is strategically located. As one of three international gateways for the Solent, in proximity to areas of outstanding natural and cultural significance, it provides huge potential to harness visitor growth. This is particularly the case as the stay-cation market grows in the short-term and the Solent leads the restart of the UK's cruise industry, capturing additional benefits from the fly cruise market and indeed the regional rail market, where rail-air connectivity is one of the most convenient in the country.

This economic restart provides a truly once in a lifetime opportunity to establish the whole of the Solent as a tourism zone and secure the benefits for all our businesses and communities that this will bring. There is no doubt that our airport is critical to achieving this.

We await the Government's decision regarding those that have applied for Freeport status. Southampton together with Southampton International Airport being granted freeport status would further strengthen its role in supporting the business community to enable businesses/organisations to import goods without paying tariffs, process them into final goods and either pay a tariff on goods sold into the domestic market, or export the final goods without paying UK tariffs. Southampton/Southampton International Airport being granted Freeport status would significantly benefit the area from tax reliefs to assist in purchasing land, constructing or renovating buildings, while increasing opportunities for additional local employment. An extended runway and all its additional investment opportunities will provide the confidence to open up the north east sector of the Airport site and the adjoining Riverside commercial area to development, which promises to be a major economic boon for the area.

Hampshire Chamber of Commerce is fully aware of how Southampton International Airport plays a key role in supporting a green recovery working towards a net zero position and we must be in a position to work positively with the Government's Net Zero Council and other climate change policies to ensure the Solent is at the forefront of driving the ambitious delivery of new technologies and innovative ways to cut aviation emissions before, during and after the development and completion of this proposed runway extension.

It is essential that we support Southampton International Airport and ask you to back our local businesses, local communities, visitor economy to ensure the future economic prosperity of the airport and the whole of the Solent region.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above a light blue horizontal line.

Ross McNally  
Chief Executive/Executive Chair of Hampshire Chamber of Commerce



Peter Taylor  
Chair of the Southampton Leadership Group  
of Southampton Chamber of Commerce at Hampshire Chamber of Commerce



Mark Miller  
Chair of Planning & Transport Business Strategy Group  
Hampshire Chamber of Commerce