

More on Plans for a New Airport Terminal

As we're probably all aware by now, on 11-02-2021 the Leeds Plans Panel approved in principle plans for a £150m overhaul of Leeds Bradford Airport. The Telegraph and Argus for that date carried a full report on the hearing and the article is available at [this link](#). More recently on 07-03-2021 the West Leeds Despatch carried a comprehensive [article](#) summarising the present position. We recommend both articles to WPRA members. The following quotes are from the latter article:

"A new document has revealed Leeds Bradford Airport may not be able to demolish its old terminal building once a replacement is built, as it contains much of the site's crucial infrastructure.

As part of a Leeds City Council plans panel's in-principle acceptance of the £150m rebuild last month, members wanted the ageing terminal building to be demolished as soon as possible once the new one was built.

But a document set to go before the panel next week claims the airport is unable to do this, as it currently contains the air traffic control tower, fire station and computer systems."

A further controversial issue concerns flight times and especially night flights:

"The airport also wants permission to increase flight times before the completion of the new terminal, despite councillors' insistence that the new times only be introduced once it had been finished. Members of the panel had been concerned that granting extended flight times straight away could lead to the airport taking advantage of them without building the new eco-friendly terminal.

As part of the building plans, new flight time controls were included to extend the daytime flight period, as well as a likely increase from five to 17 flights between 6am and 7am.

The airport now appears to have offered a compromise to the council, agreeing to only introduce the new flight times one year into the two year building project."

The article also mentions the fact that:

"Two hundred and forty six University of Leeds staff and postgraduate researchers have signed an open letter calling on the government to take responsibility for the airport's planning application, which was given conditional approval by Leeds City Council on 11 February.

The signatories, including 46 professors and associate professors, say that expanding LBA's passenger numbers by 75% exceeds the maximum rate of growth that the Climate Change Committee considers compatible with the UK's legally adopted net-zero target.

They warn that expansion would make it much more difficult – and more costly – for the UK to achieve its climate targets and would require reductions in passenger numbers elsewhere in the UK."

The article concludes:

“Supporters of the project say the airport expansion would boost the local economy by hundreds of millions of pounds, update the current outdated facilities and support thousands of new jobs.

The detailed proposals include a new three-storey terminal at the eastern edge of the runway. The airport wants the “state of the art” terminal, as well as new parking and access facilities, to be open by 2023. LBA hopes the number of annual flights could increase from four million to seven million in the coming decades.”