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Sent: 01 March 2011 16:20
To: [REDACTED] Major Sites Team S-Glas
Cc: [REDACTED] -BAE/
[REDACTED] Terence O'Rourke / Major Sites S-Glas.
Subject: [REDACTED] / Filton Airfield
Attachments: Southfield Q & A - Core Strategy Reps.docm

Dear Mike,

Further to my e-mail below please find attached a short Questions and Answers document which hopefully you may find useful for responding to any Airfield related questions at the Workshop on Thursday.

Once again apologies I cannot attend in person, and we look forward to hearing the outcome.

Best Regards

[REDACTED]

Filton: VERSION 2 Q and A

1. BAE's LDF representations allude to the closure of the Airfield?

The representations refer to the possibility, within the plan period, that the runway may no longer be required.

In this situation, BAE Systems properties team is required to protect the long term value of the BAE estate. It is therefore standard practice to protect BAE Systems in the event that there is no business need for a site during the next planning timeframe (in this case 2026). As a result our consultations on the emerging local plan have sought to maintain flexibility of use at Filton should the operational need for the airfield be reviewed during this period.

Should a situation arise whereby the Airfield is no longer required, the closure of the Airfield would not happen immediately but over a number of years. In the event of closure, BAE Systems would undertake consultation with the local community to discuss and review options for the future use of the site.

2. Why are you doing this now?

The South Gloucestershire Core Strategy is at a crucial stage of it's evolution as a planning policy document. As detailed in item 1. above, BAE as a stakeholder consider it imperative that the Council is aware of the potential situation that may arise during the plan period so that it may take account of possible opportunities that may arise. It is therefore important that BAE's position is considered alongside the other stakeholders in order to preserve the long term interests of BAE Systems employees and shareholders.

3. Any closure of the Airfield would lead to wholesale job losses and have a drastic impact on the local area. Why would BAE and Airbus do this?

BAE Systems as a landlord has no direct influence on the business decision making of its tenants, in this case Airbus. The future operational viability of the Airfield is therefore entirely influenced by Airbus and the business need for the Filton Airfield. This in turn will be influenced by a multitude of factors during the long term plan period (to 2026).

We believe that changes to working practices may mean that during the plan period (up to 2026) Filton Airfield may no longer be required in order to support the industry, without have any detrimental impact to the Airbus operation or jobs.

4. Is the Airfield not a protected employment site?

Yes, Saved Local Plan policy E4 designates the Airfield as an employment site and safeguards it's use.

5. Is there another development plan around the corner? Is this the thin end of the wedge?

No plans exist for the site other than maintaining its existing use as an Airfield. As per 1. above, BAE Systems is simply seeking to 'futureproof' the value of the land within it's ownership for the duration of the plan period (2026).

Should a situation arise whereby the Airfield is no longer required, the closure of the Airfield would not happen immediately but over a number of years. In the event of closure, BAE Systems would undertake consultation with the local community to discuss and review options for the future use of the site.

6. Is BAE Systems talking to Airbus?

Yes, BAE and Airbus are in discussion about Airbus' business requirements.