



# CHOBHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

Planning Policy & Conservation  
Surrey Heath Borough Council  
Surrey Heath House  
Knoll Road  
Camberley  
Surrey GU15 3HD

By email: [policy.consult@surreyheath.gov.uk](mailto:policy.consult@surreyheath.gov.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Surrey Heath Local Plan - Duty to Co-operate Scoping Statement**

Thank you for inviting the Parish Council to comment on the above draft document. The Council supports having a comprehensive policy designed to ensure legal duties to co-operate are being met, and welcomes the review of strategic cross-boundary matters.

The Council's only comment on the document is that it feels aviation has not been given a high enough priority as a strategic matter. Fairoaks Airport in Surrey Heath is strategically well-located and plays a vital role in the national general aviation network. It is understood that the current network of general aviation (GA) airports in the UK is the minimum required to maintain and grow general and business aviation and flight crew training activity.

The All Party Parliamentary Group On General Aviation noted in a letter dated 12th November 2018 that the Group considers that the loss of Fairoaks would fundamentally damage the network of GA airfields around London and have a devastating effect on general aviation in Surrey, as well as being contrary to national policy.

National policy is clear that the importance of general aviation should be recognised (NPPF paragraph 104f and the 2015 General Aviation Strategy document), and with Fairoaks Airport under threat of closure, it is felt that the strategic importance of aviation to the local and regional economy must be included as a distinct discussion

piece under “Matter 3: Delivering Economic growth including retail” and “Matter 7: Transport”. It is noted that the Civil Aviation Authority is included under “other bodies” for these items, but the omission of any detail as to the role and issues faced concerning aviation in the borough is felt to be an oversight.

Thank you for taking this point into consideration and as always if the Parish Council can provide any clarification or further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C Cooper', written in a cursive style.

Ms C Cooper  
Planning Administrator