

David Feeney and Carol Cunningham  
Planning & Sustainable Development  
City Development  
Leeds City Council  
10th Floor West  
Merrion House  
Leeds  
LS2 8BB

14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Mr Feeney and Ms Cunningham

**Objection to Planning Application 20/02559/FU**

The Leeds Trades Union Council (Leeds TUC) objects to the planning application to expand Leeds Bradford Airport (LBA) via a new terminal building and changes to the flight regime.

The application is designed to allow LBA to expand its passenger numbers and Leeds TUC believes that the resultant increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, noise and air pollution would be unacceptable. Above all, we are deeply concerned that approval would result in a large increase in GHGs when it is absolutely clear that emissions should be reduced by as much, and as quickly, as possible to avoid climate breakdown.

Leeds TUC welcomed the Climate Change Emergency Declaration by Leeds City Council and would like to remind the Council that this committed them to make Leeds carbon neutral by 2030 and to a scientifically based carbon reduction target that is consistent with achieving the Paris Agreement of no more than a 1.5°C global temperature increase. If this application is approved then the target cannot be achieved as carbon emissions from flights at LBA would be more than the total carbon budget for the whole city, even before 2030. This point is expanded on in detail by the climate academics from Leeds

University in their objection to this application, an objection that Leeds TUC supports.

Leeds TUC also believes that under planning policy and law, the Council must consider climate change and the GHG emissions from LBA at a local level. As the GHG impact of the proposed development is contrary to the Core Strategy (Spatial Policy 12) and the National Planning Policy Framework, which requires radical reductions in GHG, the council has ample scope on which to reject the application.

Leeds TUC represents trade union branches all over Leeds and is of course concerned about jobs for its members and other Leeds citizens. We are aware that LBA is promising that jobs will be created in an expanded airport, whilst at the same time recently cutting its workforce. We believe that any jobs created at the airport would likely be precarious, low paid, zero-hour, part time jobs. It makes no long term economic sense, however, to be investing in fossil fuel industries that will bring about climate breakdown – a breakdown that would impact the jobs of many more people. Leeds TUC believes that Leeds City Council needs to look at other ways to create jobs. Retro-fitting houses is just one example of where safe, in house, permanent, well paid, unionised jobs could be created with Leeds colleges training people in the necessary skills. It does not need to look to AMP Capital, the Australian based Investment corporation that owns LBA, for jobs.

In summary Leeds City Council needs to show leadership and stay true to its call that there is a climate emergency. It must respond to this application in that light and refuse this application on climate emergency grounds.



Vice President, Leeds TUC