

Major Stakeholder consultation moves ahead

During the Autumn of 2011, a series of one-to-one meetings between the LoCATE team and individual stakeholders took place, to identify their specific interests and capture their aspirations for the future. Businesses said they had potential for growth and called for improved infrastructure and better opening hours. Community groups said that their interests are in noise and road traffic but that they are keen to see the assets used better to create jobs and training opportunities.

This was followed on 1 December by a meeting of the LoCATE stakeholder group in the stunning new Rizonjet facility at the Airport. This £18 million investment was opened earlier in 2011. As well as touring the Rizonjet facility, stakeholders also visited the new Heritage Hangar where WWII Hurricanes and Spitfires are restored and maintained and the aviation engineering company Jet Aviation which employs 44 skilled engineers and support staff. The group also looked at the West Camp site and the industrial estates noting their potential for future employment.

Delegates were briefed on the progress of the 'aviation engineering' apprenticeship scheme, due to launch this Spring. Jenny Munro, the Airport's Managing Director, and her team have continued a comprehensive round of meetings with community groups, MPs, councillors and business leaders. At all of these the subject of LoCATE and the potential to support the local economy is very much to the fore.



Airport input to Government Aviation Policy

At the end of March 2012, it is expected that the Government will issue a draft aviation policy for consultation, along with a call for evidence on maintaining the UK's status as an international hub.

The case for Business Aviation at Biggin Hill was set out in a response to the Government's 2011 consultation on a 'scoping document'. This detailed response reviewed the evidence and showed how Business Aviation can play an important role in maintaining London's world city status. In particular, it highlighted the fact that Business Aviation links three times as many cities and locations as are available by scheduled flights from London's other airports.

Other responses and reports have included a recognition by the Mayor of London of the need for additional airport capacity and a major study by London First into connectivity. The London First study, titled *'London, Britain and the world: Transport links for economic growth'*, published in February 2012, carries recognition of Biggin Hill as delivering vital business and general aviation services to customers.



New study of Employment and Economic Potential

Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners, a leading specialist in economic analysis, have been appointed by the LoCATE team to prepare a report of the value of the Biggin Hill Strategic Outer London Development Centre (SOLDC) to the local economy, both now and potentially in the future. The study will quantify the value of London's economy and the relationship with Business Aviation and, using detailed economic data and survey information, it will analyse the contribution made to the local economy.

The survey, of many of the local firms, will also reveal the potential of these firms to increase the number of jobs and their economic contribution as the LoCATE initiative is taken forward. The study will make comparisons with a number of other airports serving Business Aviation to show the potential of Biggin Hill.

The NLP study will form a major part of the input to the London Borough of Bromley's Core Strategy, part of the Local Development Framework.

Putting the Jigsaw Together

Another study of the potential of the SOLDC is being undertaken by Jones Lang Lasalle, who have been appointed by the LoCATE team to devise a property led strategy for the various areas, including South Camp, East Camp, West Camp, the industrial estates and other areas within the designated SOLDC area. The LoCATE initiative is designed to evolve a coordinated planning and development strategy for these areas which were sold off separately in the 1970s.



London Borough's Core Strategies

Bromley is a key LoCATE stakeholder and the Borough's Core Strategy, part of the Local Development Framework, is due to be developed through 2012. In 2011, Bromley consulted on the Issues and, in its consultation document, identified Biggin Hill as the borough's own business airport, as well as noting the economic potential through the SOLDC designation and the LoCATE initiative. Bromley is now considering the next steps in the development of its Core Strategy, which is likely to include a consultation in the Summer of 2012.

Croydon's Core Strategy has now reached the stage of submission to the Secretary of State (planned for March 2012), following which there is likely to be an Examination in Public, possibly in the Summer of 2012.

Heritage Centre Progress

In a major positive step, the Trust responsible for the projected Heritage Centre has identified a site next to the RAF Chapel that would be better than the previous proposal to use land to the west of Main Road in the former RAF married quarters area. Being next to the Chapel is a much more appropriate site and the Trust is now moving forward to prepare a business plan.



Further Information

If you would like to receive further information on investment opportunities in the Biggin Hill area please write to either:

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Going Forward with LoCATE

As well as the major investment by Rizonjet, other new organisations and developments in the LoCATE area include:

- Saltire Global Aviation, a division of Air Charter Scotland, has established a new business at Hangar 170 in South Camp. They specialise in business and executive charter and are recruiting skilled engineers.
- SkyElite has leased an office in the Terminal Hangar where their Pilatus PC XII is now based. The company provides aircraft sales and management services and are pioneers in aircraft dry leasing.
- Concierge Aviation will be re-locating to Biggin Hill in April, bringing an established aircraft management and business aircraft charter service to the Terminal Hangar. The company is headed by Glen Smith, formerly Ground Operations Manager with Air Partner at the airport.
- Jet Aviation is extending their FBO operation at the airport with the addition of the vacant building, formerly occupied by Bluestream aviation and working towards enhancing its maintenance capabilities.
- Avalon Aero has won a contract for the maintenance of two BAe RJ aircraft operated by the Empire Test Pilots School at Boscombe Down. Avalon already provide maintenance services for the two RJ aircraft owned by F1 Management that are based at Biggin Hill.
- A replacement hangar in West Camp has been approved and is now under construction for F1 Management.