

23rd January 2018

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Dear Mr Seckington

**Planning Application Reference 17/02233/F
Langford Lane, Kidlington**

Introduction

I write as the Head of Business Development at London Oxford Airport to confirm our strong support for the application for a proposed hotel at the above site, adjacent to the airport.

London Oxford Airport

As the Council is aware, London Oxford Airport specialises in general and business aviation and is home to Oxford Aviation Academy, Airbus Helicopters, among many other companies.

London Oxford Airport performs a number of key roles in the aviation sector including:

1. Pilot Training

The Oxford Aviation Academy has been the largest air training school in Europe. Historically it has been Europe's foremost centre for professional pilot training with well over 30,000 students having started their careers here, going on to join over 90 airlines around the world.

2. Commercial Services

The airport plays a key commercial services role hosting chartered flights for local companies and business professionals in the region. Freight and small package services, along with emergency 'just-in-time' freight of urgent components are routinely undertaken. The Airport is the key port for supplies to the local motor industry with the likes of BMW Mini (Oxford) and Honda (Swindon) working closely with logistics service companies. Similarly, the medical industry and research community around Oxford, with the largest concentration of such activities in Europe, routinely need access to the Airport for emergency supplies. It is the fastest port of call for any plant, business or industry within at least a 30-40 mile radius of Oxford.

As the Council is also aware, we continue to explore opportunities to introduce commercial passenger flights that will serve both residents and businesses in the local area.

Support for the proposed hotel

Against the background of our operations set out above, the proposed hotel will support the business and training operations at the airport and assist in establishing a first-class aviation business hub destination. It will provide a facility that will support the ongoing operations of the Oxford Aviation Academy by providing supplementary accommodation which can be utilised by some trainees and other visitors to the airport

Importantly, the hotel will support high value employment needs that will be accommodated at the proposed Oxford Technology Park and that already pre-exist at the airport. We therefore see the delivery of the hotel proposed as part of the Technology Park as a critical component of ensuring that the full business and economic needs of Kidlington are met in order to fulfil its role as part of Cherwell's economic strategy.

The proposed hotel will create an appropriately designed sustainable 'gateway' economic destination to the north of Kidlington. Presently there are no service facilities of the type proposed and required, that serve both the existing and proposed economic activities in Kidlington. There is therefore an urgent requirement to deliver facilities in Kidlington that supports both its existing economic base and the high value employment operations at the airport and proposed Technology Park. This point is fully recognised and supported by the Council's Kidlington Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document. There are few better located, sustainable sites that will meet this requirement.

It follows that the delivery of the hotel at the application site accords in full with the Council's planning policies to secure high value employment operations at Oxford Technology Park, deliver hotel and other service facilities that will support the wider economic community in the north of Kidlington and ensure that Kidlington can contribute fully to the wider sustainable economic strategy for Cherwell.

There are strong planning grounds to support the application for a hotel and the airport fully supports the application. I trust my comments will be taken into account and that you will support the application for the reasons set out above.

Yours sincerely



James Dillon-Godfray
Head of Business Development
Oxford Aviation Services Ltd t/a London Oxford Airport