

30th May 2025

Planning Policy Team,
Tameside One,
PO Box 304,
Ashton-under-Lyne,
Tameside,
OL6 0GA

By email

Dear Planning Policy Team,

TAMESIDE HOMES, SPACES, PLACES OPTIONS AND PREFERENCES CONSULTATION

Thank you for consulting Manchester Airports Group (MAG) on your Homes, Spaces, Places (HSP) Options and Preferences draft plan. We greatly welcome the opportunity for engagement in the development of your Local Plan and our comments are as follows:

Transport

Good transport links are crucial to supporting sustainable communities and economic growth. It is therefore important to locate development in sustainable locations that are carefully linked to the wider network, and to improve accessibility via sustainable modes of transport across the borough and to key destinations and major economic drivers in the region.

Manchester Airport is a strategically important component of the UK's infrastructure network and serves as the UK's global gateway in the North. It is the largest airport outside of London and third largest in the UK, handling 30.7 million passengers in 2024 and around 120,000 tonnes of cargo annually. With 50 airlines operating to over 200 destinations, Manchester Airport provides the North of England with valuable international connectivity and crucial links to overseas markets. As such Manchester Airport is a major asset and driver of economic growth, contributing £2.0bn in direct GVA for the North of England in 2024, and supporting approximately 20,000 jobs on site. The Airport is also a major regional transport hub and public transport interchange with rail, bus, coach and Metrolink facilities all located on site. This makes Manchester Airport a strategically significant location in terms of its economic contribution, excellent transport connections and opportunities for growth – all of which will help to meet the future development needs of Greater Manchester.

The Places for Everyone Plan recognises Manchester Airport as a key factor in realising the wider growth agenda for the North and unlocking the economic potential of the region, and that to maximise the Airport's contribution to the growth agenda it must be well-connected to the key towns and cities that it serves. Although we understand that the intention of Homes, Spaces, Places is not to repeat the strategic objectives and policies contained within Places for Everyone, we do feel that the role of Manchester Airport as a major economic and transport hub should be recognised within your Local Plan. We would therefore encourage you to acknowledge the

importance of maximising the economic and transport links with Manchester Airport and the benefits these afford.

Recent staff travel surveys show that approximately 5% of Manchester Airport staff reside in the borough of Tameside, particularly in and around the towns of Denton, Hyde, Ashton-under-Lyne and Stalybridge. However, accessibility of the Airport by public transport from across the borough is poor, with journey times in excess of 60 minutes. Therefore, opportunities for improving transport links and connectivity between the borough and Manchester Airport should also be explored.

Other Matters

Manchester Airport must be afforded policy protection to ensure that its operational safety and efficiency are not compromised. This has some implications for land and development within the borough and may influence the type of development allowed in certain areas. It is therefore essential to have an appropriate and robust policy within your Local Plan to ensure that aviation interests are protected. We therefore request that this be included and recommend using the following policy wording, along with suitable supporting text:

- **Aerodrome Safeguarding** – Development which would adversely affect the operational integrity or safety of Manchester Airport or Manchester Radar will not be permitted.

Further details relating to this policy requirement, and justification for its inclusion, are set out below.

Aerodrome Safeguarding ensures the safety of aircraft manoeuvring on the ground, taking off, landing or flying in the vicinity of the aerodrome. Aerodrome safeguarding is a legal requirement and regulated by ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) and the UK CAA (Civil Aviation Authority).

By virtue of its importance to the national air transport system, Manchester Airport is an officially safeguarded aerodrome. Detailed information and guidance on aerodrome safeguarding is published by the Civil Aviation Authority and its implementation in the Planning system can be found in ODPM/DfT Circular 01/2003 'Safeguarding Aerodromes, Technical Sites & Military Explosives Storage Areas Direction' (or any revised versions of this Circular). In accordance with this Circular, Manchester Airport is a statutory consultee for certain planning applications for developments that require safeguarding to protect the safety of the Airport's operation. The safeguarding zones around Manchester Airport are defined on a safeguarding map lodged with relevant local planning authorities by the Airport. The map defines development types that require prior consultation with the Airport Operator and/or National Air Traffic Services Ltd (NATS). The safeguarding zones for Manchester Airport cover Tameside and the main implications for the types of development that will require consultation are:

- **Obstacles** – All buildings, structures, erections or works that exceed the heights as specified on the safeguarding map for different areas of the borough – these may cause an obstacle and/or impact on radar.

- CNS – Any development that might cause interference with radar and other communication, navigation and surveillance systems (CNS). This includes tall buildings and renewables such as wind turbines.
- Thermal Plumes – Any scheme that could cause a change to air density e.g. chimneys.
- Aviation – Applications connected with an aviation use including drones, EVTOL (electric vertical take-off and landing) aircraft, UAS (unmanned aircraft system), UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle), vertiports and heliports.

We are happy to discuss the implications of the safeguarding map with you in more detail, and to work with you to draft an appropriate policy and supporting text.

Thank you again for providing us with the opportunity to comment on the options and preferences for your Homes, Spaces, Places Plan. We trust that our comments have been useful but please don't hesitate to contact us should you wish to discuss any of the matters raised in more detail.

Yours sincerely,



Natalie Belford, MRTPI
Planner