

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Southampton City Council
Lower Ground Floor
Civic Centre
Southampton
SO14 7LY



Please ask for: Andrew Gregory
Our Ref: 20/00943/CONSUL

20 May 2024

Rachael Morris
Development Management Team
Eastleigh Borough Council
Eastleigh House
Upper Market Street
Eastleigh SO50 9YN

Dear Rachael,

Application No: F/24/97188

Site Address: UNIT H, GEORGE CURL WAY, EASTLEIGH, SO18 2RX

Description: Creation of headquarters for Hampshire Isle of Wight Air Ambulance (HIOWAA) and other healthcare services to include offices; the creation of a helipad; change of use and minor alterations to existing building to form a mixed use comprising B2, B8, E(e) and E(g); and other associated works

Southampton City Council Position – HOLDING OBJECTION

I write with reference to the consultation on the above planning application, received on 14 April 2024. Southampton City Council recognises the critical importance of the Air Ambulance Service and the rationale for the proposal in terms of locating to a more central location within the region to reduce response times and minimise flying and travel time.

The proposed Air Ambulance headquarters and associated noise from helicopter movements must avoid giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life, having regard to paragraph 191 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Noise Planning Practice Guidance. The site is located within the administrative boundary of Eastleigh Borough Council but is located within close proximity to the City of Southampton and its residents.

The Omnia Noise Assessment (Ref Omnia ref: C11045/NIA/1.2) supporting the planning application, only assesses the impacts on properties within Eastleigh Borough considering residential receptors in Allington Lane and Campell Road.

Unfortunately, the Noise Impact Assessment does not consider any residential areas within the Southampton City Council area, although the nearest residential properties are located in Southampton City Council's area (Wide Lane/ Walnut Avenue) i.e. significantly closer than the nearest homes assessed in Eastleigh BC's area.

The report concludes that the residents within Eastleigh will have No Observed Adverse Effect Level, but does state that *'as no flight path has been specified we would also recommend that in order to minimise any potential impact there where possible the flight path will avoid residential areas. In addition, we would recommend that a complaints procedure is put in place for the closest residential area, so that in the event of complaints future flight will be directed to avoid the complainant's property if this is a viable option'*.

It is recognised by Southampton City Council that due to the location of the proposed helicopter take off and landing area being between the M27 and Southampton Airport there is already a large noise climate in this area and the flight paths do not appear to take off specifically in the direction of Southampton but as the helicopter may need to go in any direction after take off there is a large likelihood that the helicopters will fly over SCC residents at times.

We ask that the noise impact assessment should be amended to clarify whether the modelling indicates that the nearest properties within the Southampton city boundary will also have no observed adverse effect level before a planning decision is made.

We also request that, should the above be addressed, a planning condition is applied to make the planning permission personal to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance to avoid the permission being used by a commercial helicopter operator using the site.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pete Boustred', written in a cursive style.

Pete Boustred
Head of Transport and Planning

For any further enquiries please contact:
Andrew Gregory