



WELWYN HATFIELD
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

UNDERSTANDING AND DELIVERING OUR MEMBERS' GOALS

To whom it may concern Panshanger Airfield

The Chamber would like to see a new development at Panshanger.

This development would:-

1. **Community.** Provide leisure facilities for flyers and the community as a whole.
 - a. Historically there have been firework parties, visits from Concord pilots, the ability to have a flight around the area, all of which have been very well attended. The fireworks display was attended by some 1500 people.
2. **Business.** Help business. Welwyn and Hatfield has a proud history of aerospace, with De Havilland, and Airbus just up the road in Stevenage. There are still many of the local artisan firms left over, in engineering and associated skills. It is important that Hatfield and The Garden City become a center of excellence.
 - a. We envisage a social flying center with aircraft maintenance
 - b. Working closely with the University, who would have space there, and businesses who could rent space, and co develop skills with the University.
 - c. We can run apprenticeship schemes there
 - d. This will fit well with Oaklands College
 - e. We can help stop the 95% failure rate of start up businesses by joining up our skill sets
 - f. We can create high value jobs and transferable skills
 - g. We can Innovate and create a knowledgebase of shared expertise
 - h. We can export that knowledgebase in global knowledge transfer schemes
 - i. We can help to scale existing firms through new products into new markets
 - j. We can reduce our national debt
3. **Education.** We have met with the Engineering faculty at the University and through them our proposal is now supported by Quentin McKellar Vice Chancellor of the University who says **“The University of Hertfordshire would welcome the reinstatement of Panshanger airfield as part of a mixed-use approach. Given the impressive aviation history in this area, and the University’s continued status as a leading aeronautical education institution, there could be potential benefits and opportunities for our students and the wide population.”**
4. **The Council.** We have worked extensively with the Council, and specifically with Trevor Saunders the Director of Strategy and Planning, and indeed I sat on the committee that raised £6 million via the LEP to support Welwyn and Hatfield. The Council have backslid on this in search of an easy life.



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5. **The Local Enterprise Partnership.** I sit on the Innovation Board of the LEP, and can confirm that the LEP has always been interested in the project and continues to be so. For the council to suggest there is no interest is simply untrue. Indeed, the LEP has a duty to explore these opportunities. We have met with the LEP in January 2018. They are interested and need the following to proceed to the next stage.
- a. An established organization to hold the money. The University is ideal
 - b. A Capital project, bricks and mortar and/or equipment.
 - c. Education and Skills
 - d. Involvement of local businesses
 - e. To deliver high quality jobs

On the face of it this project ticks all of those boxes.

We would ask the Inspector to consider the Heritage of the Garden City, we have our Centenary in 2020. The need to join up Hatfield and the Garden City from skills and social perspectives. The unique nature of this opportunity, which if lost will be lost to the community, academia, business and residents alike. The downside being less houses, which we appreciate are on a quota, but people need jobs and services. None of which seem to be catered for in the local plan.

Kind regards

Nick Brown

Chairman

Welwyn Hatfield Chamber of Commerce