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To: Melton Borough Council

Application Ref: 21/01223/FUL

Proposal: **Change of use of former airfield land to use for the import, storage and export (B8 use) of straw from commercial purposes (retrospective)**

Location: **Saltby Airfield, Skillington Road, Sproxtton**

With reference to the above application received 6 April 2022

Notice is hereby given that the County Council as Local Highway and Lead Local Flood Authority:

Does not wish to restrict the grant of permission.

Lincolnshire County Council as Highway Authority were not consulted by Melton Borough Council on this application, however a local elected Member alerted us to the consultation, as the majority of the highway network affected is within Lincolnshire's boundary.

This is a change of use application of a former airfield to B8 use for import, storage and export of straw for commercial purposes. It is a retrospective application as it has been in use since summer 2017. Prior to that, it was used for storage of straw for agricultural purposes (permitted development), which generated an average of 84 tractor with trailer movements per week.

The straw is transported to the Sleaford Renewable Energy Plant (SREP). It is a seasonal operation (harvest) - on average across the year it generates 40 HGV movements per day (1 every 18 minutes), with the maximum recorded HGV movements being 86 per day (1 every 9 minutes) since operation began. Around 10% of these movements continue to be for agricultural purposes.

The majority of the route between the site and the SREP utilises A class roads. The initial route between the site entrance and the A607 uses rural roads which route through Hungerton.

There is no precise definition of "severe" with regards to NPPF Paragraph 111, which advises that "Development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe." Planning Inspector's decisions regarding severity are specific to the locations of each proposal, but have common considerations:

- The highway network is over-capacity, usually for period extending beyond the peak hours

- The level of provision of alternative transport modes
- Whether the level of queuing on the network causes safety issues.

In view of these criteria, the Highways and Lead Local Flood Authority does not consider that this proposal would result in a severe impact with regard to NPPF.

NO OBS

Having given due regard to the appropriate local and national planning policy guidance (in particular the National Planning Policy Framework), Lincolnshire County Council (as Highway Authority and Lead Local Flood Authority) has concluded that the proposed development is acceptable and accordingly, does not wish to object to this planning application.

Case Officer:

Date: 6 April 2022

Becky Melhuish

**for Warren Peppard
Head of Development Management**