



PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 30th March 2010

Police Authority Welcomes Proposals For Airport Security

Proposals to change the way in which airport security is funded have been warmly welcomed by Bedfordshire Police Authority. From April 2011 Airport Authorities, including those of Luton Airport, will be responsible for funding their security arrangements.

A Risk Advisory Group which includes representatives from Luton Airport and Bedfordshire Police as well as other interested parties has already been established to produce a risk report. The recommendations from this report will be approved by the Security Executive Group which will include representatives from the airport operator, police force, police authority and airlines operating at Luton.

If the resulting Airport Security Plan identifies a need for a dedicated policing presence at Luton airport, the airport operator, police force and police authority will agree a Police Services Agreement. This will set out the level of policing required and how much the operator will pay. A deadline of 28th February 2011 has been set for the final agreement, which will come into effect on 1 April 2011.

If unanimous agreement cannot be reached, an arbiter will be appointed to negotiate and subsequently set the amount of money to be paid by the Airport Authority to Bedfordshire Police Authority.

Peter Conniff, Chair of Bedfordshire Police Authority, said: "This is a huge relief, particularly in these challenging financial times. We have repeatedly asked for changes to the funding of Luton Airport to remove the burden on Bedfordshire taxpayers, so this announcement was a very welcome one indeed."

"It is essential that Luton Airport is appropriately policed and security is the highest priority, but we did not feel that the increasing cost burden should fall on the local taxpayer. This new arrangement will be much fairer resulting in the airport operator, rather than the Bedfordshire taxpayers, paying for any dedicated policing identified in the Security Plan.

"I am delighted that our calls for change have been heard. It's good news for us, it's good news for local residents and it's good news for those using the airport."

ends

Media Enquiries: Sallie Blair, Better Times, 01283 821012