

<b>Risk Identifier</b>	CR-22
<b>Risk Title</b>	Expansion of Stansted Airport

**Risk Description**

Because of the recent publication of Stansted Airport's Sustainable Development Plan, it is likely that the council will receive a planning application to increase passenger numbers in the near future. Due to UDC's designated status, it could also be submitted directly to the Planning Inspectorate. The application could be highly contentious and if not handled correctly could lead to a risk of the authority incurring significant costs (£1m+).

**Risk Owner**

Dean Hermitage

**Directorate**

Planning &amp; Building Control

**Previous Risk**

Likelihood	Impact	Score
2	4	8

**Current Risk**

Likelihood	Impact	Score
2	4	8

**Risk direction**

Stable

**Cabinet Member**

Cllr John Evans

**Key Dates**

Date Registered	11th Dec 2024
Last update	24th April 2025

**Background**

Stansted Airport has published its Sustainable Development Plan, which looks ahead to the airport's operations over the next twenty years. This is a document that is required for refresh every five years and includes consideration of anticipated passenger numbers and general demand on the airport and its facilities. Alongside this, it is known that Ryanair has placed orders for new larger (longer) planes that increase seating capacity and will be used for short-haul flights. This could impact the anticipated increase of passenger numbers over the next decade from the current cap of 43m to 48-51m. Planning permission would be one of the key processes required to increase this cap.

**Service Area**

Planning

**Triggers**

Submission of planning application.

**Risk Type**

Threat

**Risk Response Category**

Reduce

Risk Response	Risk Response Actionee	RAG Status	Progress Update	Next Scheduled Update
Briefing for all members regarding predetermination issues and the consequence of potential comments/postion statements being made.	Dean Hermitage/ Nurainatta Katevu	Red	The Airport has indicated a planning application will be made in the first half of 2025.	
Planning service seeking a Planning Performance Agreement with the Airport to fully cover the council's costs for processing a planning application (without prejudice to the outcome)	Dean Hermitage/ Nigel Brown	Amber	PPA and cost recovery of processing application agreed. This would not cover appeal costs should the application be subject of an appeal.	

**Key for RAG status of risk response**

<b>R</b>	Control is not in place or working or progress has slipped
<b>A</b>	Control is not working efficiently and some challenges remain
<b>G</b>	Control is working or predominantly in hand or completed