

Walworth Society Objection

LB Newham. Planning reference 22/03045/VAR: London City Airport – expansion plans to significantly increase passenger numbers from 6.5 million to 9 million, expand operations on Saturday afternoons and increase the number of early morning flights between 6.30am – 7am by 50%

Walworth is a part of LB Southwark and is an area that is home to some 40,000 residents which extends south (and east and west) from the Elephant & Castle as far as Burgess Park. We are an area that is particularly affected by aircraft noise owing to the increasing use of concentrated flight-paths into Heathrow Airport and our being at the intersection of both a flight-paths into Heathrow Airport and for London City Airport (LCA). In the case of LCA, planes fly north over Walworth before turning east for a descent along the River Thames to the airport itself. For both flight-paths aircraft are flying at relatively low altitudes and there is significant discomfort to residents from the resulting engine noise. The Walworth Society is an amenity society of 1,100 members and objects to this application on the following grounds:

- Overall, owing to our being an area that is particularly affected by aircraft noise, residents in Walworth need relief from the noise and air pollution experienced as a result of London City's activity, not an intensification of these as is proposed. It is anticipated that any noise reduction will be negligible, with this offset by a greater number of aircraft flying over south and south-east London boroughs and our area in particular for longer hours.
- The total emissions will increase from existing levels and this conflicts significantly with local, regional and national targets on reducing emissions.
- There appear to have been only limited consultation opportunities for residents in relation to this application. This has ensured that those likely to be most affected have been denied the opportunity to understand and respond to the current application. In addition, the level of technical knowledge required from largely non-technical residents to understand London City Airport's application is unreasonable.
- It is known that particulate matter from aircraft emissions as tiny as PM2 is found below 3,000ft at 12 miles distance from airport boundaries; PM2 has been found to penetrate the human brain and lungs, and, frighteningly, the unborn baby in the womb, causing life-shortening health problems to current and future generations. This is particularly significant in an area such as Walworth where we are already significantly affected by high concentrations of PM2.5 from road traffic and woodburning in particular.
- With the current move to reduce noise and emissions at ground level by encouraging the use of electrified public transport, electric over fossil-fuel cars, the ULEZ in London and cycling and walking, it is extraordinary that any part of the aviation industry should push to increase noise and emissions for their own financial gain at the expense of the health and wellbeing of our residents, the majority of whom gain no benefit from the industry or the airports.

We trust that this application will be refused.