



## Farnborough Airfield Liberal Democrat Policy Statement September 2008

**The Liberal Democrats are opposed to any further development or increase in flights at Farnborough Airfield that would adversely affect public safety or quality of life, but support the continued provision of "high-end" business flying at the airfield.**

The Liberal Democrats have established the following objectives relating to the Airfield:

### **Quality of Life:**

- Impact on residents: Annoyance to residents comes from a combination of factors such as frequency of movements, aircraft size and noise, weekend flying, smell of fumes, etc. This overall annoyance must not be allowed to increase. As technology improves, the benefits should be shared between the Airfield and the residents (e.g. increases in number of flights accompanied by reduction in overall annoyance). There should be no extension of the hours during which movements are permitted.
- Impact on housing and road traffic: Activity at the Airfield should not be allowed which generates significant extra demand on housing and road traffic.
- Impact on the environment: Any changes to be subject to an environmental impact assessment (covering emissions, impact on wildlife, etc.)

### **Safety and Security:**

- Public safety: No changes should be made without a full assessment of third party risk using best practice techniques.
- Airfield Security: Measures to be based on full risk assessment, and meet CAA standards.

### **Airfield Use:**

- Airfield purpose: Farnborough Airfield to be the high-end business executive gateway to London and the South East. (i.e. not used for general commercial aviation).
- Economic Development: The Airfield should remain sufficiently profitable to be a going concern. It should provide some income for the local economy. As unemployment in Rushmoor and the surrounding area is very low (below 1%), there is no need for it to generate large numbers of extra jobs.
- Heritage: The Airfield should do more to help promote Farnborough's distinct heritage as the birth place of British aviation.
- Special events: The biennial Air Show should continue, with numbers excluded from the calculation of overall limits, as now. Other exceptions could also be accommodated on a case by case basis (e.g. use of the Airfield for competitors during the 2012 Olympics), subject to risk assessment and security accreditation.

### **Community Engagement:**

- Working with local communities: There should be stronger direct links between the Airfield operator and local communities, including mechanisms for them to meet with groups of local residents to discuss issues of concern.