

Annex A to  
LAA Letter 20130124 Panshanger Aerodrome  
Dated 24 Jan 2013

**Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan 2012 – Panshanger Aerodrome**  
**Executive summary of response by the Light Aircraft Association**

Key to the LAA response is the NPPF paragraph 33 on page 10 which requires that:

*When planning for ports, airports and **airfields** that are not subject to a separate national policy statement, plans should take account of their growth and role in serving business, leisure, training and emergency service needs. Plans should take account of this Framework as well as the principles set out in the relevant national policy statements and the Government Framework for UK Aviation."*

The Local Plan and its policies ignore this guidance and would destroy a facility which would be irreplaceable within the Welwyn/Hatfield area and compromise future generations' needs for the facilities it provides. The Plan does not consider the characteristics of Panshanger or its facilities in relation to the NPPF but it must do so. It must also have regard for the Framework for UK Aviation.

Particular characteristics of Panshanger include the economic role of the aerodrome with employment and business opportunities and the sports and leisure facility it provides, none of which are available elsewhere in the area. It is a managed green space which is a sports pitch for air sports as well as providing a diverse natural habitat that is protected from intrusion by the very nature of an aerodrome.

Proposal WGC4 concerning Panshanger Aerodrome contradicts a number of other key policies in the Local Plan. For example the Plan proposes it "*will guard against the loss of existing community facilities*" but the proposal WGC4 would do the opposite. The Plan proposes that "*the council will work with ....Sport England ... and National Governing Bodies (for sports)*" but has not done so in regard to Panshanger which has "a special uniqueness to the area and cannot easily be replaced". The Sustainability Appraisal, the Housing Strategy and the Emerging Core Strategy all support economic growth and the expansion of all types of businesses and, "*should promote the retention and development of local services, community facilities and sports venues*". But these policies are completely ignored in respect of Panshanger Aerodrome.

Closing Panshanger Aerodrome would remove the air sports and associated leisure facilities available to local communities as well as destroying employment and business opportunities from this important national asset that serves the whole area north of London.

We believe these points must be addressed by removing policy WGC4 - Panshanger from the Local Plan 2012 and retaining Panshanger Aerodrome in its current use.