

Preparing for the Olympics in 2012

Biggin Hill Airport and based companies are all preparing their resources and management in time for the London Olympic Games in 2012.

The successful staging of the Games carries substantial reputational importance for London and the UK. Due to the extra demand that London's infrastructure will experience from visitors for the short period before, during and after the Games themselves (including the Paralympic Games which follow), London Biggin Hill Airport is – alongside other airports within the London area – being asked to provide details on how it can accommodate the additional flights to assist in planning. Biggin Hill is particularly important because of its extensive areas of aircraft parking.

In order to satisfy the expected demand from visitors and on-airport businesses, the airport company has requested a temporary change to the hours and ruling on passengers paying a fare for the duration of the Games. This does not require a change to the Lease.

This document outlines briefly the proposals for the Olympic Games and the decision-making process.

The proposals

The airport is requesting a temporary change which will include:

- **Amendments of the opening hours of the airport**
- **A temporary change to the ban on fare paying passengers, for air taxi users (not scheduled).**

Many of the teams, Governments and big sponsor companies are already making bookings and arrangements for transporting guests to and from the Games, which is why these proposals are important for local businesses and residents.

The proposals will enable the Government and air space and airport capacity planners to produce their transportation master plans, listing how they will accommodate all the flights at all the London Airports during the Games period. The airport needs to respond to their proposals by 7th January 2011.

Finding out more

The airport website will be hosting additional information on how it is preparing for the London Olympic Games and opportunities for local businesses and jobs.

Visit www.bigginhillairport.com/community for updates as the proposals progress.



The process

There is a Lease of the airport which has been agreed with the Council, which sets the guidelines and terms within which the airport is operated and run for 125 years, but within the Lease is a section called the Operating Criteria that is designed to be changed from time to time during such long lease.

The airport's Operating Criteria section controls the noise levels allowed of aircraft which can use the airport opening hours and other such matters, ie things that are bound to need changing over time.

The London Borough of Bromley is the landlord and any changes to the Operating Criteria have to be made in agreement with the Council, even temporary changes.

London Biggin Hill Airport has been keeping the Landlord advised of Olympic matters and has now submitted the final proposals outlined here to the Council in order to agree the terms so that the airport can ensure the transportation authorities can plan the capacity of the airport to handle the expected traffic. The Olympic Games are now just over a year and a half away, and the airport has to reply to the next stage by 7th January 2011.

Opening Hours

At present, the airport has restricted and strictly enforced opening hours. During the Olympics, the timing of many events go on until late evening and programme highlights will frequently be at weekends, which is why the airport is proposing to amend the opening hours for this time.

The Games will also attract a lot of day visitors. Although the actual dates of the Olympics and Paralympics are 27th July to 9th September 2012 the proposals are for Friday 13th July 2012 to Sunday 23rd September 2012 to allow for a build up and a shut down period at either end. It is expected that during the Olympics there will be an extra 21 business flights per day in addition to the average 32 per day at present. This level is well within the authorised numbers of flights permitted and well below the maximum daily rate at peak times of the year.

Current

- Weekday opening hours 0630 to 2200hrs
- Weekend opening hours 0900 to 2000 hrs (8pm)
- 0630-0730 Unlimited number of departures, no arrivals
- Passenger tax - £0
- Passenger limit – no limit but no fare paying passengers
- Annual flight allowance – 125,000
- No flying outside of operating hours

Proposed for the Olympics

- Weekday opening hours 0630 to 2300hrs
- Weekend opening hours 0630 to 2300hrs
- 0630-0700 – maximum of three flights in or out
- Passenger tax - £3 per departing commercial passenger
- Passenger limit – 75 per flight, incl some who may have paid a fare
- Annual flight allowance – 125,000
- No flying outside of operating hours.

Air taxi Services

The airport does not accept scheduled passenger services. The airport is not looking to change this under these proposals.

Air taxi services are not scheduled passenger services and are operated by companies where seats can be 'pooled' on an on-demand basis, or the whole plane paid for by one person or organisation. These aircraft services already operate at the airport but they would normally be turned away if they are carrying passengers who have paid for a seat. The airport proposes that to discriminate against these visitors would be unfair. However, they would be subject to the community tax noted above that will be paid to the Council. Aircraft types are the same as those already hosted by the airport, nothing like the traditional passenger aircraft used on scheduled services.



Bringing new revenues and jobs to Bromley

In order to operate longer hours and handle the added security required, up to 75 additional staff will need to be recruited (preferably locally) and trained. Businesses operating at the airport in the highly skilled area of aviation engineering will also benefit, as will lots of local suppliers of service and goods to flights and customers at the airport.

The Government is keen to maximise the commercial value of the Games. The airport has proposed that a £3 departure tax be payable on all Air Taxis and a flight tax payable on all flights that land outside the present opening hours. This money will go to the Council in addition to the rent and share of revenues it already receives.

As a legacy, the airport companies hope to make a good first impression on the many new customers who visit Biggin Hill for the first time and who could return to set up a business and invest in the area.



Managing onward transport

There will be very little extra road traffic because these are Business Jets in the main, carrying less than 15 passengers and only occasional larger groups. Onward travel will be, where possible organised and grouped together in executive coaches.

The airport will only be accepting a maximum group size of 75 passengers. A shuttle bus will be operated to the railway stations of Bromley South and Orpington, as public transport is the recommended travel option for visitors to the Games.