

Cabinet

Meeting date: 18 November 2025

Public Question

1. Question from Steven Thomas to the Leader, Councillor Rowena Hay

I recently read your press statement regarding Staverton Airport where you had stated that Horizon Aero Group are the council's preferred bidder and that any final deal would uphold the airport's long-term aviation future and deliver clear benefits to the wider region.

It seems that Horizon Aero Group were only set up this year in January 2025 and have not yet filed any accounts, returns, or confirmation statements. Furthermore, they only have three Officers, Rajani Kishore Kumar Panja, Somasekhara Narayana Murthy Pemireddy, and Ramdev Polkampalli, all of whom were appointed on 23 January 2025:

<https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/16203305>

Please advise why you chose a company with no track record and no history of managing airports and clarify for the record whether the council's plan really is to deliver long term growth for the airport, or whether the council actually intends the area to be sold to make way for more housing?

Cabinet Member response:

Gloucester City Council and Cheltenham Borough Council remain firmly committed to safeguarding the future of Gloucestershire Airport as an operational and strategic asset for the region. Our aim is to ensure the airport continues to play a vital role as a dynamic aviation-based commercial hub, and we fully support the growth of existing businesses on site, alongside new enterprises.

The sale to Horizon Aero Group is continuing to progress. As often with the nature of such transactions, it is not unusual for investors to set up a special purpose vehicle. The people, their investors and the team behind them have huge experience across many fields within the aviation industry, which combined with the skills and experience that will come with Gloucestershire Airport Limited, was one of the key considerations behind the selection of Horizon. Due diligence with both councils and professional advisors, and legal processes are taking place and as such, there are strict limitations on any further information that can be publicly disclosed at this stage.

What can be confirmed, however, is that the sale will be subject to robust measures and controls, including covenants against housing development on any part of the site, ensuring that the airport is not bought for speculative land investment.

From day one, both councils have made clear their commitment to secure the future of Gloucestershire Airport as an operational airport. That is what everyone continues to work towards.