

Farnborough Airport Consultative Committee 2025-26

This report provides a summary of the current planning application (ref: **25/00615/REV**) submitted by Farnborough Airport Ltd to Rushmoor Borough Council.

Current Status

As of February 2026, the application is under formal consideration. Following a public consultation period that ended in **January 2026**, the proposal is expected to be decided by Rushmoor's Development Management Committee in **March 2026**.

Key Proposals

The airport is not currently seeking to increase the total number of yearly flights, but rather to change *when* and *what* flies. The main requests are:

- **Weekend & Bank Holiday Increase:** Raising the limit for non-weekday flights from **8,900 to 13,500** per year. The airport states this aligns with current demand trends where roughly 27% of their traffic occurs on weekends.
- **Aircraft Weight Adjustments:** Amending weight categories to allow more "heavier" aircraft (50–80 tonnes) on weekends (increasing from 270 to 405 annually).
- **Noise-Based Exemptions:** Reclassifying certain modern aircraft (50–55 tonnes) so they no longer count toward "heavy aircraft" quotas, provided they meet the strictest ultra-quiet noise standards.
- **Total Annual Limit:** The overall cap remains at **50,000 flights per year**.

Feature	Initial 2023 Intent	Current 2026 Application
Total Annual Flights	Increase to 70,000	Retain 50,000
Weekend Flights	Increase to 18,900	Increase to 13,500
Operating Hours	Proposed extension (earlier/later)	No change to current hours
Community Funds	Standard contributions	Enhanced Social Value Fund for noise-impacted areas

How This Differs from the Initial Intent

In late 2023, the airport initially proposed a much more significant expansion. Following widespread local opposition and community feedback, the current 2025/2026 application differs in the following ways:

Summary for Parish Consideration

The revised application is a "scaled-back" version of the original 2023 plans. However, the primary concern for local parishes remains the **intensification of weekend activity**. While the total number of annual flights is capped, residents may notice a "redistribution" of noise, with more frequent flights occurring during weekends and bank holidays compared to previous years.

Cllr Richard Lucas