

Response to the London Heathrow Expansion Consultation

Summary

This report sets out the Council's response to the London Heathrow Airport Expansion Consultation. The consultation began on Wednesday 18th June and ends on Friday 13th September 2019. The Council's response focuses on topic areas covering aspects that are considered to impact on Surrey Heath. These are:

- The Preferred Masterplan
- Travelling to and from Heathrow – surface access
- Future Operations
- Managing the Effects of Expansion

The response also covers the loss of housing arising from the construction of a third runway at Heathrow and how this could impact other local authorities.

The letter of response is included at Annex 1.

Portfolio: Deputy Leader

Date Portfolio Holder signed off report: 20th August 2019

Wards Affected - ALL

Recommendation

The Executive is advised to RESOLVE to:

- (i) **NOTE the publication of the London Heathrow Airport Expansion Consultation; and**
- (ii) **AGREE the response set out in the letter at Annex 1 of this report as the Council's formal response to London Heathrow Airport Expansion Consultation.**

1. Resource Implications

- 1.1 There are no resource implications beyond that provided for within the agreed budget for 2019/20.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 London Heathrow Airport is consulting on plans for its future expansion. The consultation material covers Heathrow's preferred proposals for developing and operating an expanded airport. This is a statutory consultation carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and associated legislation and guidance.
- 2.2 The consultation relates to the effects of the planned expansion of Heathrow. This will inform London Heathrow's application for a

Development Consent Order (DCO), planned to be submitted in 2020. The DCO would combine consent to expand London Heathrow, for operation and maintenance of the project and for the compulsory acquisition of land.

- 2.3 The current consultation follows an earlier consultation held in January-March 2019 relating to Airspace Change and Future Operations at Heathrow, which the Council previously responded to (Annex 2). A consultation on proposed flight paths is scheduled to take place in 2022. Airspace change proposals do not form part of the current Consultation. However, the likely effects of flight paths have been considered as part of the assessment of environmental effects, and this is included in the consultation material.
- 2.4 Officers have considered the material provided in order to identify key issues, from Surrey Heath's perspective.

Preferred Masterplan – Road and Rail

- 2.5 In respect of changes to roads, it is considered that the proposals for a realigned M25 would have potential impacts on those who live and work in Surrey Heath. The Council's response puts forward a preference for the construction of the new section of the M25 and junction realignments to be completed adjacent to the existing motorway, minimising the impact on road users. The need for detailed highways modelling outputs to be released by Heathrow for consideration by relevant highways authorities is also raised.
- 2.6 It is emphasised through the Council's response that current rail connections between Surrey Heath and Heathrow are poor and impractical to use. The introduction of a Southern Rail Link between train lines in Surrey and Heathrow would enable much improved rail access from the three stations in Surrey Heath to London Heathrow. The Council's response states that the Southern Rail Link should be included as part of Heathrow's expansion plans, providing greater certainty of Heathrow's intention secure its delivery.

Travelling to and from Heathrow – Surface Access

- 2.7 The surface access section of the consultation proposes a new bus route between Heathrow and Camberley which also stops at Bagshot. The Council's response emphasises the benefits this would provide for both Heathrow Airport and residents of Surrey Heath. Further information about the proposal is requested, including where pick up and drop off points will be located within Camberley and Bagshot, the frequency of the proposed bus service, and an indication of its operating hours.
- 2.8 Heathrow intend to introduce a Heathrow Vehicle Access Charge (HVAC) following the opening of the third runway, whereby all passenger cars, and taxis will be subject to a charge when entering the

airport's terminal forecourts. Whilst the principle of this is supported, the Council advise that alternative modes of transport to Surrey Heath must be in place prior to the introduction of the charge, and the charge itself should be proportionate.

Future Operations – Runway Alteration and directional Preference

- 2.9 The Council's response supports the alternation of runways on east and west operations to provide respite to communities, and also the opportunities for respite created through the operation of three runways. The completion of infrastructure work relating to Heathrow's expansion would enable increased alternation of departures and arrivals over Surrey Heath, ensuring a more balanced distribution which would help reduce the period that departures (which are the loudest activity) impact the Borough. The Council's response also sets out that a detailed impact assessment of the changes in noise from overflying experienced within the Borough as a result of the airspace redesign is required, prior to Heathrow's application submission for a Development Consent Order.

Future operations - Night Flight Proposals and Early Morning Movements

- 2.10 The proposal of a 6.5 hour ban between 23:00 and 05:30 within which time reduced operations would apply together with a recovery period is supported in the Council's response, as this is longer than the existing night flight ban. The recovery relates to schedule recovery from delays. Currently there are no restrictions on recovery. The Council has advised its preference for restricted recovery which would provide greater certainty around when aircraft will and won't be overhead. A comprehensive review of Heathrow's landing fees is also supported, in order to achieve night flight noise reductions.
- 2.11 However, the Council's response also suggests that any period of noise impacting residential areas before 6.30am is particularly disruptive to those who are affected and accordingly refers Heathrow to Surrey Heath's response to the previous Airspace Change and Future Operations Consultation (Annex 2). The response to the current consultation reiterates our previous comments; that an option offering a 6:30am start time for scheduled flights would be welcomed.

Future operations - Early Growth

- 2.12 The consultation states that in the short to medium-term, Heathrow intend to increase the use of the existing two runways before the third runway is built. The Council raises objection to the possibility of Heathrow making provision for up to an additional 25,000 air traffic movements each year on the two existing runways, before the third runway is opened. It is also understood that an effect of the changes will be increased exposure to noise levels above 63dB_{Aeq} (equivalent continuous sound level). Further information on the effect of this is

requested by the Council. Surrey Heath's response notifies Heathrow that the Council would seek mitigation and compensation measures for any of our residents affected above the stated limit.

Managing the Effects of Expansion - Noise

- 2.13 The Consultation indicates that in future years, noise exposure is forecast to be lower than that in 2013 despite design envelopes shown in the Airspace and Future Operations Consultation referring to flights above 65dBaleq over much of Surrey Heath to be potentially upwards of 20 per hour. Clarity is sought from Heathrow in respect of this matter and it is emphasised that the airspace changes process should be completed before the DCO is submitted to allow the Council to determine with certainty the likely effects of increased movements over the Borough.

Managing the Effects of Expansion - Air Quality and Climate Change

- 2.14 In consideration of aircraft emissions, our response acknowledges that nitrogen dioxide and dust are advised to have low impact on ground level concentrations outside of the airport boundary. The response notes that significant parts of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area within Surrey Heath could be subject to increased overflight, and consideration should be given to this when determining future flight paths. The Council's response welcomes proposals to make the expansion carbon neutral.

Loss of Housing in Heathrow's Surrounding Communities

- 2.15 The planned expansion of London Heathrow will result in a loss of housing in communities adjoining the airport. The Council's response emphasises that any attempts to redress the loss of housing should be made within the affected local authorities and their immediately adjoining neighbours.

3. Options

- 3.1 The options for the Executive to consider are:-

- (i) To **AGREE** the response to the London Heathrow Airport Expansion Consultation, as set out in Annex 1 of this report.
- (ii) To **AGREE** the response to the London Heathrow Airport Expansion Consultation, as set out in Annex 1 of this report with any additional comments which the Executive may wish to make.
- (iii) To **NOT AGREE** the response to the London Heathrow Airport Expansion Consultation, as set out in Annex 1 of this report.

4. Proposals

- 4.1 It is proposed that members agree to submit the letter of response attached at Annex 1 as Surrey Heath Borough Council's formal response to the London Heathrow Airport Expansion Consultation.

5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 The documentation that forms part of the London Heathrow Airport Expansion Consultation is available at <https://aec.heathrowconsultation.com/>

6. Corporate Objectives And Key Priorities

- 6.1 Underpins the theme of *People* set out in the Council's Five Year Strategy by ensuring Surrey Heath's interests are fully considered in respect of future air quality and aircraft related noise so that people can live happily and healthily. Also underpins the theme of *Place*, helping to make Surrey Heath a clean, green and safe place where people enjoy and contribute to a high quality of life and a sustainable future.

7. Policy Framework

- 7.1 The consultation process Surrey Heath is responding to is of a strategic nature. The proposals impact a large number of local authorities to varying degrees, including Surrey Heath.

8. Legal Issues

- 8.1 The London Heathrow Airport Expansion Consultation is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and associated legislation and guidance which establishes the consenting process for nationally significant infrastructure projects.

9. Governance Issues

- 9.1 No matters arising.

10. Risk Management

- 10.1 No matters arising.

11. Equalities Impact

- 11.1 No matters arising.

12. Human Rights

- 12.1 No matters arising.

13. Consultation

13.1 The London Heathrow Airport Expansion Consultation runs between Wednesday 18th June and Friday 13th September 2019.

14. PR And Marketing

14.1 Surrey Heath Borough Council is a document inspection location for material relating to the London Heathrow Airport Expansion Consultation. Documents are available for inspection at Surrey Heath House throughout the consultation period.

14.2 A public consultation event took place at The Square Shopping Centre, Camberley on Tuesday 13th August between 2:00pm and 8:00pm. The event was held by London Heathrow Airport. Subject experts were available at the event to answer any questions regarding the different Consultation topics, and printed consultation materials were available for inspection.

Annexes	Annex 1 – letter of response to London Heathrow Airport Annex 2 – letter of response to Heathrow’s previous Airspace Change and Future Operations Consultation (sent in March 2019)
Background Papers	Link to the Heathrow Airport Expansion Consultation – https://aec.heathrowconsultation.com/
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Consultations, Implications and Issues Addressed

Resources	Required	Consulted
Revenue	✓	✓
Capital		
Human Resources		
Asset Management		
IT		
Other Issues	Required	Consulted
Corporate Objectives & Key Priorities	✓	✓
Policy Framework		
Legal	✓	✓
Governance		
Sustainability	✓	✓
Risk Management		
Equalities Impact Assessment		
Community Safety		
Human Rights		
Consultation	✓	✓
P R & Marketing		