

**TO: THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND TRANSPORT**  
**DATE: 15 MARCH 2019**

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**CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO AIRSPACE AND FUTURE OPERATIONS LINKED TO  
THE EXPANSION OF HEATHROW AIRPORT**  
**Director of Place, Planning and Regeneration**

**1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To approve the Council's response to the latest Heathrow Airport Ltd (HAL) consultation on the physical and operational changes needed to build and operate the expanded airport and on the new flight paths that are needed.

**2 RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Council's response to the HAL Airspace consultation outlined in Appendix A is approved.**

**3 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To ensure that the Council provides HAL with an overarching consultation response for their consideration alongside individual consultation responses from Borough residents.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 The Council could choose not to respond to the consultation. This would mean a lost opportunity to stress the importance of environmental, transport and mitigation issues related to any expansion of the airport on behalf of residents and businesses in the Borough.

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 5.1 On the 25 June 2018, Parliament formally backed Heathrow expansion, with MPs voting in support of the Government's Airports National Policy Statement (Airports NPS).
- 5.2 The Airports NPS sets out Government policy for the expansion of Heathrow and the construction of a new north-west runway. This will increase the number of runways at Heathrow from two to three.
- 5.3 This current consultation relates to future expansion with the main topics for consideration being future operations and airspace change, including the construction of a third runway. In addition, HAL are also consulting on proposals to make better use of our two existing runways.

- 5.4 Consultation responses will help HAL to design future airspace for expansion by understanding what issues should be considered in different geographic areas when designing future flight paths
- 5.5 The consultation is intended for individuals and groups who may respond to the consultation by entering their postcode at the consultation web site and by completing the on-line consultation document that follows. Documents which accompany this consultation are non-technical in nature and no sound level calculations or predictions are provided.
- 5.6 The main areas of concern for the Borough are:
- i. How noise is managed at Heathrow (beyond immediate area around Heathrow);
  - ii. Provision of Respite – through runway and airspace alternation. The latter will be of interest as it may involve changes to flight paths;
  - iii. Directional preference – proposals for a new approach to balancing operation between easterly and westerly;
  - iv. Airspace change – changes to where flightpaths may be positioned in the future;
  - v. Handling of night flights.
- 5.5 During the consultation Heathrow held a number of events where members of the expansion team were on hand to answer any questions and provide demonstrations to help understand what aircraft may look and sound like at different heights, both outside and indoors. These events were well attended by local residents and it is clear that response to parts of the consultation is much down to resident's personal preference.
- 5.5 The consultation includes a number of specific questions and **Appendix A** outlines the Council's proposed response to HAL. In addition, the Council will underline the importance that the views of local residents are taken into account through their individual consultation responses and feedback from the local exhibitions

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Treasurer

- 6.1 Nothing to add to the report

### Borough Solicitor

- 6.2 Nothing to add to the report

## **7 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 HAL are undertaking a full public consultation on their physical and operational changes and Borough residents have been encouraged to respond directly with their individual views.

## Representations Received

7.3 In writing to the Director of Place, Planning and Regeneration.

### Contacts for further information

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