

Agenda Item IMD15

INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION REFERENCE IMD: 2017/15

TITLE	DfT Consultation on Draft Airports National Policy Statement: new runway capacity and infrastructure at airports in the South East of England
DECISION TO BE MADE BY	Executive Member for Highways and Transport, Malcolm Richards
DATE AND TIME	16 May 2017 at 11am
WARD	All Wards
DIRECTOR	Interim Director of Environment, Josie Wragg
REPORT TO BE PUBLISHED ON	16 th May 2017
VENUE	Shute End Second Floor room SF2

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

None

The consultation draft, Airports National Policy Statement, seeks stakeholders responses to a 9 structured question regarding:

- The Government's policy in relation to the need for new airport capacity in the South East of England;
- The Government's preference for the Heathrow Northwest Runway scheme to deliver additional airport capacity; and
- The requirements the applicant will need to meet in order to secure development consent for the preferred scheme.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members support the Council's response regarding the draft Airports National Policy Statement consultation. (see supporting paper)

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The draft Airports National Policy Statement (NPS) consultation considers building an evidence base for airport capacity improvements in the south east to develop the Development Consent Order process needed to increase runway capacity at Heathrow. The draft NPS does not deal with detailed design of the North West runway at Heathrow.

- 1) The Department for Transport (DfT) want to hear views on whether the draft Airports NPS provides the evidence base to progress with a Development Consent Order for a new Heathrow runway; and
- 2) The proposed package of supporting measures expected from communities impacted by the expansion.

Background

The DfT are developing the process for increasing runway capacity in the South East of England, as per the outcomes of the Davis Commission in 2015. In parallel with current consultation on UK Airspace and the way that could operate in the future, taking advantage of the way that modern aircraft navigate.

The consultation paper deals with the need to develop a sufficient evidence base to shape the development consent order needed to deliver a new runway at Heathrow. A Development Consent Order (DCO) is the means of obtaining permission for developments categorised as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.

Analysis of Issues

The main points for WBC to cover are noise and surface access.

Aircraft noise in regard to the draft NPS is a consideration, however aircraft noise is much more likely to be affected by the planned changes to flight patterns and intensity of used flight paths which is covered by the UK Airspace Policy Consultation. Wokingham Borough is located far enough away from the airport to fall outside the threshold where action needs to be taken. In previous DfT publications Wokingham Borough is shown to be outside the 57dB contour line and therefore in terms of this consultation evidence regarding noise has already been considered for the DCO.

In relation to surface access, Wokingham Borough's position is represented by the Thames Valley Berkshire Economic Partnership, which is in support of capacity improvement at Heathrow. Wokingham Borough Council is signed up to supporting Western Rail Access and improvement to the M4 improves capacity through the Managed Motorway programme.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0		

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

There are no financial impacts to WBC that result from this consultation

Cross-Council Implications

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES	
Director – Finance and Resources	No comment
Monitoring Officer	No comment
Leader of the Council	No comment

List of Background Papers
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-airports-national-policy-statement
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/589099/uk-airspace-policy-consultation-executive-summary.pdf

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