

Agenda Item IMD18

INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REFERENCE IMD: 2018/15

TITLE	Heathrow Expansion and Airspace consultation
DECISION TO BE MADE BY	Executive Member of Strategic Highways and Planning - David Lee
DATE, MEETING ROOM and TIME	15:30 hours 26th March Shute End SF1
WARD	None Specific;
DIRECTOR	Interim Director of Environment - Josie Wragg

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Heathrow is a major employer within the Thames Valley and the economy and residents of Wokingham Borough currently benefit from being in proximity to this major driver of economic activity. Expansion of the airport will provide new economic opportunities for our residents. The expansion is likely to have a modest impact on residents living in Wokingham Borough.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Member for Highways and Transport

Notes the contents of the contents of the report on Noise and Expansion:

- Approves the response to the HAL (Heathrow Airport Limited) consultation as detailed in this report (appendix 1) and
- Authorises officers to return the response to HAL on behalf of Wokingham Borough Council

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The two consultations are being undertaken by Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL), the airports owners, not government, in preparation for the application for the Development Consent Order (DCO) needed to deliver the 3rd runway.

The first consultation asks questions around the purposed reorganisation of the 'space' around the airport and considers sustainability and surface access. The second consultation is shorter and discusses of the principles of airspace, navigation and the impacts of noise.

The impact of both on Wokingham Borough appear to be relatively minor, but we are overflowed by aircraft using Heathrow and we have a direct interest in surface access. Therefore, the council's response will reflect the nature of questions asked.

Background & Analysis of Issues

In July 2015, Sir Howard Davies produced a report concluding that expansion of Heathrow Airport would create a greater economic benefit to the UK economy rather than at Gatwick or the development of new airport in the Thames estuary. Last year Government published its Aviation National Policy Statement giving an unequivocal view that additional runway capacity in the south east of England should be provided at Heathrow. Since then Heathrow Airports Limited (HAL) have been working with partners to develop plans to promote a new runway and the Development Consent Order (DCO) needed to achieve this.

The proposed development of Heathrow will include a new runway to the north west the existing airport, which will require the compulsory purchase of approximately 750 homes and significant re-modelling of the highways network. This include bridging the M25 while keeping the motorway operational.

Although Wokingham Borough has no comment on how the work will be undertaken or on the new highways layout feeding the airport, we are concerned about surface access. An aspiration of the HAL is to make up to 50% of journeys to the airport sustainable by 2030. At present people travelling to the airport from London have a choice of rail, tube or bus. Travellers to the west of the airport do not have many options other than using cars. This could significantly change with the delivery of Western Rail Link to Heathrow and, in the long-term, a southern rail access via Staines serving parts of Surrey. Wokingham Borough Council has made comments supporting the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership's (LEP's) position of the North Western runway option and the need to deliver Western Rail Link to Heathrow by 2024.

The issues of noise and flight paths are a more complex and the necessary documents are attached to this briefing paper as web links, this contains Guide to WebTAG Noise Appraisal for non-expert. The issue of aircraft noise is perceived by a number of residents to affect Wokingham Borough even though our closest point is 23km from the airport and aircraft using Heathrow over they are over 3000ft high registering less noise than the prescribed 56db limit contour where noise mitigation measures are deemed necessary.

Plans to change the way that air space is used or modernisation of air space is considered in this consultation process but only the basic principles that may be followed such as overflying settlements rather than open spaces. Our response to the HAL consultation reflects this.

A full copy of the recommended response can be found in Appendix 1 to this report.

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)	nil	nil	nil
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	nil	nil	nil
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	nil	nil	nil

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
N/A

Cross-Council Implications
N/A

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES	
Director – Corporate Services	None received
Monitoring Officer	None received
Leader of the Council	None received

List of Background Papers
<p>Full details of the consultation can be found at the following location: https://www.heathrowconsultation.com/</p> <p>Expansion consultation booklet: https://www.heathrowconsultation.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Expansion-Consultation-Document.pdf</p> <p>Expansions consultation questions: https://surveys.ipsosinteractive.com/mrIWeb/mrIWeb.dll</p> <p>Airspace consultation booklet: https://www.heathrowconsultation.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2755-HRW-3R-AIR-Principles-booklet-WEB.pdf</p> <p>Airspace consultation questions: https://surveys.ipsosinteractive.com/mrIWeb/mrIWeb.dll</p> <p>Guide to WebTAG Noise Appraisal for non-experts https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/669423/webtag-for-non-experts.pdf</p> <p>WBC Response to Expansion Consultation</p> <p>WBC Response to Airspace Consultation</p>

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