

INTRODUCTION

This report sets out Hillingdon Council's detailed response to the Government's consultation document "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" published on 22 November 2007. In addition to this report, the Council's opposition to the principle of a third runway at Heathrow, as detailed in the White Paper titled "The Future of Air Transport" December 2003 is set out in its original response to the SERAS consultation (The Future Development of Air Transport in the United Kingdom: South East – a National Consultation (Second Edition February 2003)) which is available on the Council's website. It is considered that the Council's original submission and arguments against the third runway are equally applicable and therefore remain relevant. In almost every respect the impacts identified at the time of the White Paper have worsened when compared to the current consultation proposals.

Answers to the specific consultation questions are provided at Appendix 1.

THE COUNCIL'S POLICY ON HEATHROW EXPANSION

1. The Council has always benefited from the cross-party support from all Councillors and the three local Members of Parliament. To re-affirm its position on Heathrow expansion, a motion was submitted to a meeting of the full Council on 17th January 2008. The motion, clearly setting out the council's policy, was adopted unanimously as follows:

'The London Borough of Hillingdon reaffirms its absolute opposition to any further expansion at Heathrow Airport.

Council deeply regrets that the Department for Transport's proposals for a third runway, sixth terminal and changes in runway and flight patterns will obliterate the village and community of Sipson and multiply the suffering for residents around Heathrow, particularly in Harmondsworth and Harlington, who are already subject to excessive amounts of disruption, noise and air pollution.

Furthermore, Council notes that new areas of the borough including the Uxbridge, Ruislip and Northwood areas will be affected bringing additional noise, traffic congestion and carbon emissions along with increased demand for development.

Council is also concerned at the fundamental flaws in the Department for Transport's consultation process, which is both meaningless and clearly biased in favour of the airport's growth.

Council therefore resolves to confront this unprecedented environmental and social threat working together with the 2M Group of neighbouring councils, the local action group NoTRAG, (No Third Runway Action Group) Members of Parliament and Councillors of all parties.'