

Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee



19 September 2019

Surrey County Council's response to statutory consultation on Heathrow Airport expansion

Purpose of the report:

The Select Committee is asked to consider the County Council's draft response to the statutory consultation on Heathrow Airport Limited's plans for airport expansion.

Introduction:

1. The statutory consultation on Heathrow Airport's Preferred Masterplan for the future expansion of the airport ran between 18 June 2019 and 13 September 2019. This was scheduled to be the last public consultation in advance of Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL) submitting an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for examination under the provisions of the Planning Act 2008 for determining Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). The scale and complexity of the expansion plans is considerable and the consultation material substantial; as well as a third runway and new terminal facilities, Heathrow's expansion will include modification of the M25 between junctions 14-15, replacement and re-routing of local roads, river diversions and flood storage, parking, environmental mitigation and a range of airport supporting facilities.
2. The draft consultation response attached at Annex 1 has been produced in consultation with Surrey County Council services impacted by the scheme and provides commentary on the specific issues that are likely to significantly affect Surrey residents, businesses and county council service interests.
3. As agreed with the Leader and relevant Cabinet portfolio holders, the draft response was submitted in time to meet the consultation deadline, but HAL is aware that this response is subject to political sign off following the end of the consultation period and have accepted that further comments may be provided before the end of September.

Airport expansion and the DCO process

4. As Heathrow's expansion proposals are classified as an NSIP, permission requires the grant of a DCO under the Planning Act 2008. PINS will examine the DCO application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport, who will make the decision on whether to grant or refuse permission. The

DCO will be assessed against the Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS), which provides the policy framework for a Northwest Runway at Heathrow airport and associated new and reconfigured terminal facilities.

5. The June – September Airport Expansion Consultation is programmed to be the last public consultation prior to HAL’s DCO application, which is expected to be submitted to PINS in 2020. It is the only statutory consultation on the new runway and physical infrastructure and operational changes needed for expansion (although under the separate airspace change process a consultation on flight path options is anticipated in 2022). The consultation provides a vast amount of supporting technical information, much of which is effectively an early version of information and assessments that will be required for the DCO submission.
6. The DCO process front loads much of the engagement that scheme applicants are required to have with statutory consultees. As a ‘host authority’ for the scheme, which extends into the county, this Council’s engagement with HAL on the expansion proposals has been ongoing for a number of years and the consultation response covers many of the issues that have been raised during this ongoing engagement.
7. The majority of engagement with HAL takes place through HSPG, which comprises ten local authorities in ‘the area of influence’ of expansion at Heathrow as well as impacted Local Enterprise Partnerships and the Colne Valley Park Community Interest Company. The group was established in 2015 to lobby and be a collective voice on matters relating to expansion and to enable collaborative spatial planning aimed at reducing and mitigating impacts as well as looking to maximise the benefits of an expanded Heathrow. A Lead Members Board was established in July 2017 to enable political discussions with HAL and government. Through this board, Surrey County Council has also endorsed HSPG’s response to the consultation, which raises vital strategic issues as well as providing detailed comments on a number of the technical documents included as part of the supporting material.

Surrey County Council position

8. There have been a number of resolutions on airport expansion at Full Council since 2013, the most recent being the 9 October 2018 resolution setting out the Council’s position on Heathrow expansion:

This Council:

- *Recognises the crucial role of Heathrow in supporting employment for Surrey residents, generating investment for the Surrey economy and attracting major businesses.*
- *Urges that the environmental and infrastructure issues associated with expansion are satisfactorily addressed.*

- *Continues to engage with Heathrow management, alongside other local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships and other organisations as part of the Heathrow Strategic Planning Group, on its expansion plans in order to protect and promote the interests of Surrey, its residents and businesses.*
 - *Continues to press for proper compensation for residents who are affected by the expansion plans.*
 - *Emphasises that the necessary infrastructure should be in place before any new runway comes into operation together with appropriate mitigation measures and commitments to address environmental impacts.*
 - *Calls on the Government to prioritise a southern rail access scheme, which supports strategic transport and economic objectives and contributes to addressing environmental impacts, to be in operation before any new runway comes into service.*
9. The consultation response is in line with this resolution, in particular focussing on the surface access and environmental issues that need to be addressed. The response relates the comments to the relevant topics for the assessment of potential impacts and assessment principles identified in the ANPS. Considerable cross service engagement and coordination has been undertaken to enable the potential impacts to be identified and considered as fully as possible.
10. There are a number of areas where the Council has grave concerns. On surface access provision, we continue to stress that delivery of a Southern Rail scheme needs to be expedited and preferably be in place for when the new runway comes into operation. Officers have met with Department for Transport (DfT) officials and there has also been ongoing engagement with the Department through HSPG to press for the project to be developed to support Heathrow expansion as early as possible. The Leader has recently written to the Secretary of State for clarity on next steps and funding and it is clear that this Council and HSPG need to continue to lobby DfT and HAL to push forward work to develop the project and ensure it benefits Surrey and the wider South East and not just south west London.
11. We highlight the inadequacies in transport modelling data and lack of detail on impacts on local roads and specific public transport and active travel measures within the county. The proposed Surface Access Strategy is critical, not least because increased traffic around the airport, especially heavier freight vehicles, could affect road condition and have maintenance implications for the council.
12. Air quality is an area of concern for the Council because of its impact on public health. The DCO boundary is surrounded by Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and the whole of Spelthorne is an AQMA. The Stanwell area could be significantly impacted because of the increase in airport related road traffic to the south and west of the airport and construction activities but more information on transport modelling is needed to fully assess the

impact on air quality. We would like to see HAL commit to supporting progressive reductions in air pollutants in areas currently below legal thresholds, not just avoid contributing to exceedances of maximum legal limits.

13. A lack of detail is a common issue particularly on mitigation measures, to enable us to understand and develop an informed view of the likely environmental effects and health impacts on communities. This causes specific concern for the Council in areas such as environmental mitigation and compensation and work to manage flood risk. The concern of Surrey residents on the as yet unknown nature of noise impacts associated with expansion is also recognised.
14. All issues raised within the consultation response are captured within a Heathrow Issues Log and HAL's progress in addressing each issue will be tracked throughout the DCO process. Issues that remain unresolved at the point of examination will form the basis of our submissions to the examination.

Conclusions:

15. The consultation response considers the potential impact of HAL's proposed scheme on the council's services, residents and businesses and sets out where issues need to be addressed and more information provided to enable the likely effects to be fully understood. The response is in line with the 9 October 2018 Full Council Resolution, which sets out the Council's position that the environmental and infrastructure issues associated with expansion should be satisfactorily addressed. Some of the comments in the response repeat points made at both a political and officer level during ongoing engagement with HAL on scheme development in bilateral meetings and through the Council's membership of the Heathrow Strategic Planning Group (HSPG).

Recommendations:

16. The Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee is asked to consider the draft consultation response attached at Annex 1.

Next steps:

- Cabinet to consider draft response and Select Committee's comments at its meeting on 24 September 2019.
- Submission of any additional comments on the consultation to HAL by 30 September 2019.
- Ongoing work through the Heathrow Strategic Planning Group to influence the design of the scheme, including mitigation measures, before DCO submission for examination (programmed for summer 2020).
- Ongoing engagement with HAL at a political and officer level to follow up on concerns and key issues set in advance of DCO submission.

- Future member briefing sessions to update on Heathrow expansion proposals (including airspace change) if appropriate.
-

Report contact: Sue Janota, Spatial Planning and Policy Manager

Contact details: 020 8541 7593; sue.janota@surreycc.gov.uk

Annexes:

Annex 1: Surrey County Council response to Heathrow's Airport Expansion Consultation

Sources/background papers:

- Heathrow Airport Expansion Consultation material
<https://aec.heathrowconsultation.com/collections/all-aec-documents/>
- Airports National Policy Statement: new runway capacity and infrastructure at airports in the South East of England June 2018
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/714106/airports-nps-new-runway-capacity-and-infrastructure-at-airports-in-the-south-east-of-england-web-version.pdf

This page is intentionally left blank