
Draft Airports National Policy Statement

Committee considering report:	Executive on 4 May 2017
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Jeanette Clifford
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	6 April 2017
Report Author:	Jenny Graham
Forward Plan Ref:	EX3280

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To outline to the Executive the purpose and contents of the Draft Airports National Policy Statement and to establish West Berkshire Council's response to the Government's current consultation.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To agree the proposed response to the Government's consultation on the Draft Airports National Policy Statement (NPS) which includes support for the Heathrow Northwest Runway Scheme.

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Financial:** Whilst there are no direct implications for West Berkshire Council's finances, there are significant implications for West Berkshire's economy and that of the wider Thames Valley region. The Heathrow Northwest Runway scheme is expected to generate up to 77,000 additional jobs in the local area by 2030, with Heathrow Airport also pledging to provide 5,000 additional apprenticeships by this time. It is estimated that by 2040, the Government's preferred option for expansion at Heathrow would see the region's annual GVA boosted by £3 billion as a result of the extra activity at Heathrow.
- 3.2 **Policy:** The Council does not have a specific policy relating to development at airports but this Draft Airports (NPS) and the Government's preferred option of airport expansion via the Heathrow Northwest Runway scheme supports the position established by the Council in 2014 in response to the Airports Commission Interim Report.
- 3.3 **Personnel:** n/a
- 3.4 **Legal:** n/a
- 3.5 **Risk Management:** There are limited risks for West Berkshire Council associated with the Government's Airports NPS consultation process. It is a public process, and it is open to anyone and everyone to respond. The responsibility for

a final decision on airport capacity expansion rests with the Government. Even if the Airports NPS confirms Heathrow and the Northwest Runway scheme as the preferred option, Heathrow Airport Limited will embark on a two year process to secure a Development Consent Order. This process itself is subject to public consultation and an Examination-in-Public.

3.6 **Property:** n/a

3.7 **Other:** n/a

4. Other options considered

4.1 The Council is not obliged to respond to this Government consultation. However, given the importance of Heathrow to the Thames Valley and West Berkshire economies it is considered appropriate for the Council to respond and continue to support the position initially expressed by the Executive in 2014 of support for the expansion of airport capacity in the south east to be focused at Heathrow.

Executive Summary

5. Introduction / Background

- The Government published its Draft Airports National Policy Statement (NPS) on 2nd February 2017. The Government is seeking views on the Airports NPS and has set a 16 week consultation period which ends on 25th May.
- The Airports NPS follows on from the work of the Airports Commission, Chaired by Sir Howard Davies, and will be the primary basis for making decisions on any development consent application for additional capacity at Heathrow.
- The Executive established its position in relation to the expansion of airport capacity in the south east at its meeting on 13.02.2014. It agreed to i) support growth in capacity being at Heathrow; ii) support measures to improve public transport access arrangements to Heathrow; and iii) seek appropriate mitigation measures for local communities.

6. Proposal

- The Draft Airports NPS reinforces the importance of aviation to the UK economy and sets out the need for new airport capacity in the south east.
- The Government is clear within the NPS that the preferred scheme is a new Northwest Runway at Heathrow and sets out the reasons why.
- The NPS (within section 5) describes what will be expected to be covered by any development consent application for the Northwest Runway at Heathrow. The assessment required, the mitigation expected and how decisions will be made on each of the following areas is included: surface access; air quality; noise; carbon emissions; biodiversity and ecological conservation; land use including open space, green infrastructure and Green Belt; resource and waste management; flood risk; water quality and resources; historic environment; landscape and visual impacts; land instability; dust, odour, artificial light, smoke and steam; community compensation, community engagement and skills.
- The Thames Valley Berkshire LEP is drafting a response to the consultation as Heathrow and the infrastructure that supports it is of significant importance to the region's economy and to the delivery of the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan.

7. Conclusion

- It is proposed that the Council responds to the consultation using the Government's consultation response form and that the following are highlighted within it: 1) That the Council supports the Government's preferred option for a Northwest Runway at Heathrow; 2) That the Council has contributed to the response made to the consultation by the TVB LEP and supports the LEP's response; 3) That the Council welcomes and supports the Government's objective for surface access to Heathrow; 4) That the Council welcomes and supports the emphasis on community compensation and also the public commitment from Heathrow Airport to a generous package in addition to the statutory requirements.

Background Papers:

Draft Airports National Policy Statement

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: ☐ No: ☒

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval ☐

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council ☐

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position ☒

Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months ☐

Item is Urgent Key Decision ☐

Report is to note only ☐

Strategic Aims and Priorities Supported:

The proposals will help achieve the following Council Strategy aim:

☒ **SLE – A stronger local economy**

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the following Council Strategy priority:

☒ **SLE2 – Deliver or enable key infrastructure improvements in relation to roads, rail, flood prevention, regeneration and the digital economy**

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Council Strategy aim and priority by supporting proposals that will have a positive impact on the District's economy and will deliver key national infrastructure improvements.

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8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A – Supporting Information
- 8.2 Appendix B – Equalities Impact Assessment
- 8.3 Appendix C – Consultation Response Form