

SUBJECT:	Update on Heathrow Expansion and Changes to Airspace
REPORT OF:	Leader Cllr. Isobel Darby /Cllr Peter Martin Portfolio Holder
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Peter Beckford Head of Planning
REPORT AUTHOR	Jane Griffin, 01895 837315, jane.griffin@southbucks.gov.uk
WARD/S AFFECTED	All

1. Purpose of Report

Heathrow Airport has been selected as the Government's preferred scheme for meeting the need for additional runway capacity in the south east of England. This report provides information on the process by which this will occur and the proposed changes to airspace.

RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet note the report.

2. Content of Report

Earlier this year the Government published a Draft National Policy Statement (NPS) for consultation together with a separate consultation on reforming UK airspace policy. The consultation document was supported by numerous background documents. This consultation closed on 25th May. The response of South Bucks District Council to the NPS was placed on both Councils websites together with a joint response from Bucks CC, Bucks Thames Valley LEP and South Bucks DC to the airspace consultation. The link to these responses is [here](#). The consultations responses are now being analysed and the transport select committee which began before the general election will reconvene after the Parliamentary recess in September. The amended NPS will then be debated by Parliament in the spring and it is anticipated that the final decision will be taken in late spring.

The consultation on reforming the policy on the design and use of UK airspace will help manage the rising number of aircraft; help introduce the latest technology to make airspace more efficient and reduce the need for stacking which will have considerable environmental benefits. In terms of managing aircraft noise a new Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise will be set up which will facilitate communication between industry and communities and provide expertise on noise management and be a credible and authoritative voice on aviation noise issues.

Once the NPS is approved as government policy this will form the planning policy for the Development Consent Order (effectively the planning application) which will be submitted by Heathrow Airport Ltd directly to the Planning Inspectorate and the examination that follows will be restricted to only assessing the extent the proposals meet the NPS. It is likely that the DCO will be submitted in 2019.

In the meantime Heathrow Airport Ltd is progressing in the production of its evidence base in consultation with the Heathrow Strategic Planning Group (HSPG) of which South Bucks District Council is a member. The HSPG is an officer group represented by all the Local Authorities

which will be Host authorities as defined by the DCO legislation (with the exception of LB Hillingdon who believe that their intention to challenge the NPS through Judicial Review would be compromised by membership). The four planning authorities which will be Hosts are Slough, South Bucks, Spelthorne and Hillingdon. These authorities will either have the new runway in the case of Hillingdon and Slough or secondary development in the case of South Bucks and Spelthorne. In addition the adjoining authorities of Hounslow, Ealing, Windsor and Maidenhead and Runnymede are also members together with Bucks CC and Surrey CC, the three affected LEPs and the Colne Valley Regional Park. We are all bound by an MOU with Heathrow Airport Ltd and are working towards an agreed evidence base which will help fulfil our duty to cooperate requirements. It is important to note that this work has no implications for the currently emerging Joint Local Plan as no decision will have been made on the airport when the JLP is submitted but could potentially necessitate a review in due course to consider the implications.

Work on employment needs predict an increase in the need for employment related land use within 5km of the airport. This would deliver replacements for uses potentially displaced by the third runway including BAs HQ, Colnbrook immigration centre, Lakeside Incinerator, BAs data centre and several hotels. Heathrow consider they need a number of additional hotels and large amounts of commercial floorspace. They also want to double the freight capacity of the airport which will require regional logistics centres.

South Bucks is currently discussing sites within the District for potential employment uses.

Surface Access is discussed at a sub-group of the HSPG. The draft NPS has stated that there should be no net increase in traffic accessing the expanded Heathrow Airport which will necessitate a substantial increase in passengers and staff using public transport. Schemes such as Western Rail Access, Southern Rail Access and Crossrail will help deliver that step change. Western Rail Access is proceeding via a DCO to be submitted in 2018 and will enable passengers to connect from Slough and points west to Heathrow. The journey time from Slough will take 6 minutes. However Southern Access does not yet have a confirmed route but does have government support. South Bucks has also pushed for some of the Chiltern Line services from Wycombe, Beaconsfield etc to be diverted via Old Oak Common when the station there is complete. This will enable access to the airport by rail from South Bucks together with the new Crossrail services. Chiltern residents however will need to go via London or use enhanced bus services.

Other matters such as noise and air quality, highway alterations, construction issues including methods, sites and workers accommodation and potentially new housing development will form the topic of later work streams.

Heathrow will be going out to consultation on their initial scheme later this year.

3. Consultation *Not applicable*

4. Corporate Implications

Reports must include specific comments addressing the following implications;

3.1 Financial - none

3.2 Legal - none

3.3 Sustainability - some benefits for public transport users.

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

The Councils will continue to use the objective of striving to conserve the environment and promote sustainability in their negotiations with the airport.

9. Next Step

N/A

Background Papers:	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/about-the-airport-and-airspace-consultations/about-the-airports-and-airspace-consultations
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