

SUBJECT	Heathrow update – towards a Statement of Common Ground
RELEVANT MEMBER	Cllr John Read, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economic Development
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Steve Bambrick, Acting Chief Executive
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WARD/S AFFECTED	All wards

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report reviews the progress made to develop a Statement of Common Ground between South Bucks Council and Heathrow Airports Limited (HAL). The final Statements of Common Ground agreed with each Council impacted by the Heathrow expansion are to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) as part of the submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application which HAL are to make by December 2020.
- 1.2 This report reviews the scheme content and stages for its delivery, the engagement that has taken place and the mitigation and 'asks' that has been sought by South Bucks Council from HAL alongside the consideration of the Heathrow expansion that has taken place through the Heathrow Strategic Planning Group.
- 1.3 This report places on the record the progress made by South Bucks Council in negotiation with HAL for handing to the successor Council – Buckinghamshire Council – to take forwards and build upon in order to reach agreement on a final package of mitigation measures for Buckinghamshire.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Cabinet consider this detailed report and the progress that has been made by South Bucks Council in developing a Statement of Common Ground with HAL to mitigate the impacts of the Heathrow expansion on South Bucks District and to secure the opportunities from that expansion for local communities and businesses.
2. That Cabinet recommend that the new Buckinghamshire Council build upon the progress made by South Bucks Council in concluding the final Statement of Common Ground between Buckinghamshire and HAL for submission to PINS as part of the DCO package setting out the proposed expansion of Heathrow.

2. Executive Summary and Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Heathrow expansion has significant implications for residents of the District and the view of each Local Authority will be a significant issue that the Planning Inspectorate consider through their determination of the DCO application in 2021.
- 2.2 Statements of Common Ground are planning documents used to record areas of agreement between a developer and the Local Planning Authority. While Local Planning Authorities are not the determining body for the Heathrow expansion, that is the role of the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), HAL have been keen to reach agreements through this mechanism as part of the process of providing local mitigation to manage the schemes impacts, but also to show a process of engagement and agreement with the key public partners as the scheme has evolved.
- 2.3 The Heathrow DCO is the largest DCO application in the UK to date, proposing a major expansion of the airport with consequences for the District in terms of land use, transport and quality of life due to noise and pollution. All of which need to be mitigated where they impact on the District and the Ivers in particular. As such, the Council has sought the optimum mitigation from the likely impacts, should this DCO be granted permission by the Secretary of State.
- 2.4 The Statement of Common Ground between South Bucks Council and HAL is not complete for two reasons. Firstly, the scheme is still evolving, partly due to its complexity and addressing issues raised through the second consultation (in late 2019), but also due to the CAA price cap which has pushed the submission of the DCO back from June 2020 to quarter 4 in 2020, ie by December 2020. Secondly, as local government reorganisation is leading to the creation of a new single Unitary Council for Buckinghamshire from 1st April 2020. It is thus, not possible to complete the Statement of Common Ground before this deadline.
- 2.5 It is judged useful to record the progress South Bucks Council has made, by working in partnership with HAL to discuss and resolve issues of concern in this District to provide a strong platform for the new Buckinghamshire Council to build upon in concluding a Statement of Common Ground with HAL later in 2020, for inclusion with the DCO and its submission to PINS.

2.6 Our Objectives

The approach taken by South Bucks Council to the Heathrow expansion has been to seek to:

- Minimise the impact of the development on the communities and businesses of South Bucks.
- Ensure the expansion leads to the best development possible.
- Secure clear gains for local residents and businesses through the DCO and accompanying measures, such as the Joint Spatial Planning Framework (JSPF), that are monitored robustly.
- Secure sustainable development, that achieves modal shift so to ensure that the surface access strategy which supports Heathrow expansion leads to enhanced connectivity for residents and businesses and meet the targets of the Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS).
- Development which is future proofed in addressing climate change.
- Work to secure local transport improvements in the Ivers, working with Buckinghamshire County Council as the local highways' authority.

3. Content of Accompanying Report

3.1 The accompanying report includes the following content:

- Section One – Introduction
- Section Two - Context
- Section Three – Role of Statements of Common Ground
- Section Four – Development of Heathrow
- Section Five – South Bucks Aims and Objectives.
- Section Six – Key issues from the development
- Section Seven -Engagement and the process of collaboration
- Section Eight – Asks and Issues
- Section Nine – The HSPG Joint Spatial Planning Framework
- Section Ten -Issues for the Future

4. Options

4.1 There are no alternative options. The accompanying report shows what has been agreed so far between South Bucks Council and HAL.

4.2 The proposed Heathrow expansion is led by HAL and neighbouring Councils are engaging with HAL to shape and mitigate the impacts of the proposed development.

4.2 The Council has responded to all formal consultations by HAL as the scheme has progressed as well as engaging in bilateral discussions with HAL as a Local Planning Authority, though it is not the determining authority. The Council has also worked through the Heathrow Strategic Planning Group (HSPG) to shape all aspects of the development and worked in close partnership with Buckinghamshire County Council.

5. Corporate Implications

5.1 Financial- there are no immediate financial implications for the Council.

The list of 'asks' of HAL is intended to secure the necessary mitigation required for the communities directly impacted. South Bucks Council has been working with the Heathrow Strategic Planning Group (HSPG) and Officers time is reclaimed as part of the agreement and via HAL through their unilateral funding agreement with impacted authorities, such as South Bucks.

5.2 Legal – there are no immediate legal implications for the Council.

6. Unitary implications

6.1 The attached report is intended to be a useful stock take of the progress made by South Bucks Council, for the new Unitary to build upon in coming months ahead of the submission of the DCO later in 2020.

6.2 In the run up to the establishment of the new Unitary Council, close coordination has taken place with Bucks County Council on Heathrow matters including the response consultations, joint briefings of Councillors from both Councils and input into HSPG workshops and meetings.

7. Links to Council Policy Objectives

7.1 The Heathrow expansion has the potential to impact on the four objectives of the Council, given the scale of the proposed expansion and the community impacts identified.

7.2 The four key Council Policy Objectives have informed our approach to the Masterplan and the development of the DCO:

- Sustainable Environment
- Promote healthier communities
- Protecting our heritage
- Protecting our future

8. Next Steps

8.1 The work of South Bucks Council will on Heathrow related matters will cease on 31st March 2020 and the work of the new Buckinghamshire Council will commence on 1st April 2020. The annex to this report will provide an important foundation to build on ahead of the submission of the DCO by HAL in December 2020.

8.2 One of the many legacies of South Bucks Council will be the work that has been undertaken to ensure that the impacts of the Heathrow expansion, as detailed through the DCO, benefit our communities and are mitigated and the agreements reached to date with HAL which will be handed on to the successor Council, Bucks Council, to complete.

Annex	South Bucks Council and HAL Report: Towards a Statement of Common Ground
Background Papers:	None other than those referred to in this report.