

Subject: Environmental Implications of the Expansion of Heathrow Airport

Report to: Environment Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 10 November 2016

This report will be considered in public

1 Summary

- 1.1 This paper sets out background information for a discussion with the representatives from Clean Air in London and the Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise (HACAN), concerning the recent Government decision to expand Heathrow Airport.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the report as background to putting questions to invited guests on the Government's decision to expand Heathrow Airport and the associated environmental implications.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee delegates authority to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output arising from the discussion.**

3 Background

- 3.1 On 25 October 2016, the Government announced its decision to support the construction of a third runway at Heathrow Airport.¹ As the Environment Committee has previously concluded, expansion at Heathrow Airport will have significant implications in terms of increased noise and air pollution.

4 Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The Government's announcement included the following measures to manage noise pollution:
- A partial ban on night flights (lasting six and a half hours, to be determined following consultation);
 - Legally-binding noise targets;

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-decides-on-new-runway-at-heathrow>

- £700 million for noise insulation for local residents, to be funded by the airport; and
- Consideration of an independent aviation noise organisation.

4.2 The Government also stated that permission for the third runway would depend on Heathrow Airport meeting legal air quality requirements. Heathrow Airport's scheme includes plans for improved public transport links and an ultra-low emissions zone for all airport vehicles by 2025.

4.3 In the New Year, the Government will publish a draft National Policy Statement (NPS) on aviation, which will be open for consultation. The House of Commons will vote on the NPS during winter 2017/18, after which Heathrow Airport will submit a planning application to the Planning Inspector. They will then advise the Government of their decision, and the Secretary of State for Transport will make a final decision before construction begins.

4.4 The Committee has invited the following guests:

- Simon Birkett, Director, Clean Air in London; and
- A representative from HACAN.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in the report.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications to the GLA arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

None.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None
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