

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 18th November 2013

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WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Councillor Sohail Munawar (Commissioner for Social and Economic Inclusion)

PART I **NON-KEY DECISION**

SLOUGH'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HEATHROW AIRPORT

1 Purpose of Report

To present the results, commissioned and considered by the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel, of the recent resident survey, and research on the economic relationship between Slough and Heathrow Airport commissioned by Slough Borough Council.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Cabinet is requested to:

- (a) Endorse the findings of the Economic Impact Assessment and recommend the findings to the UK Airport's Commission for their consideration, stressing that the relocation of Heathrow would have a catastrophic effect on the communities surrounding it.
- (b) Recognise the importance of Heathrow to the economy and employment opportunities in Slough and surrounding areas, and express deep concern over the possible relocation/closure of Heathrow or measures which would diminish the position of the airport.
- (c) Raise awareness of the *Residential Day Noise Insulation Scheme* to eligible households in Slough to mitigate the disruptive impact that noise has on residents.
- (d) Request relevant departments across the council to explore required mitigations for a range of future Heathrow related scenarios.

3 Comments of Other Committees

- 3.1 The following recommendation was agreed at the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel meeting of 30th October 2013:

"That, once the Davis Commission has announced its shortlist of options for the future of aviation in the UK and specifically options for the future of Heathrow, that

the Cabinet oversee the collation of all relevant data relating to the impact of Heathrow on Slough now and in the future, and that this information is then presented to the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel before consideration by Cabinet.”

- 3.2 The Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel discussed the relatively low response rate of the resident survey and the weight that should be given to the results of this, whilst recognising the useful free comments that the survey had drawn out. The Panel drew attention to the strong messages coming out of the economic studies that had taken place and the importance of Heathrow to the economy of the borough.
- 3.3 The Panel concluded that future discussions would be based on the economic arguments versus noise and environmental arguments in order to fully understand the position and negative impacts of Slough’s proximity to Heathrow, both now and under any future planned configuration. Members noted the likely timeframe for such a discussion and noted that until the Davis Commission formally issued its short list of options for the future of aviation in the UK, and the impact this would have on the future of Heathrow, a number of options from expansion to closure were still possibilities; therefore it would be important to wait for the short list before making future comment.

4 **Conclusion**

The results of the residents’ survey, alongside the findings of the economic research, provided the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Panel with evidence as to the relationship between the borough of Slough and Heathrow Airport. The Panel believes, and is recommending to Cabinet, that the collation of further data around the impact of Heathrow in its current and any potential future configuration (once the options are fully known) should be undertaken before further comment is made.

5 **Appendices Attached**

‘A’ Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel, October 30th 2013

6 **Background Papers**

None