

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet **DATE:** 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015

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Regeneration  
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**WARD(S):** All

**PORTFOLIO:** Councillor Sohail Munawar, Commissioner for Social and  
Economic Inclusion

### **PART I** **NON-KEY DECISION**

#### **RESPONSE TO AIRPORTS COMMISSION CONSULTATION**

##### **1 Purpose of Report**

This report is to give members an opportunity to comment on the draft of Slough Borough Council's response to the Airports Commission consultation on shortlisted options for a new runway.

##### **2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Cabinet is requested to resolve:

- (a) That the draft response adequately represents the council's position in responding to the Airports Commission consultation on shortlisted options for a new runway.
- (b) That the response be submitted to the Airports Commission before the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 closing date.
- (c) That any amendments to the response be delegated to the Assistant Director, Assets, Infrastructure and Regeneration, following consultation with the Commissioner for Social and Economic Inclusion.

##### **3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Corporate Plan**

Proposed expansion of aviation capacity in the south east, and especially at Heathrow, would have impacts on each of the priorities set out in the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy. Expansion of Heathrow could impact a number of measures included in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Setting out Slough's response to the proposals for expanding aviation capacity through the Airports Commission consultation ensures that technical expertise and local knowledge is captured by the Commission, and helps to ensure that mitigation identified by Slough Borough Council is considered and implemented in line with the vision for Slough as set across the council's strategic documents.

#### 4 **Other Implications**

##### (a) Financial

The paper highlights to the Airports Commission the risks to the council's future funding from council tax and business rates.

Expenditure may be required on individual projects but these will be assessed on a case by case basis at the time of delivery.

##### (b) Risk Management

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigating action</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
Legal <i>None</i>		
Property <i>Runways proposed to impact Colnbrook with Poyle</i>	Set out concerns and mitigating actions to reduce negative impacts	Expansion at Heathrow could improve the local area
Human Rights <i>None</i>		
Health and Safety <i>None</i>		
Employment Issues <i>None</i>		
Equalities Issues <i>None</i>		
Community Support <i>Residents may not engage in the process</i>	The council should aim to represent the views of residents while addressing technical concerns	Residents views will be articulated and may be included within Airports Commission recommendation
Communications <i>Residents may feel the council has not acted in their best interests</i>	The council should aim to represent the views of residents while addressing technical concerns	Residents will have confidence in their council to articulate their views and safeguard the future of the town
Community Safety <i>None</i>		
Financial <i>Knock on impacts could cost the council income or expenditure, e.g. business rates</i>	Set out the council's concerns to the Commission for their consideration	The council could safeguard the economy or benefit financially by highlighting potential risks to the local economy
Timetable for delivery <i>None</i>		
Project Capacity <i>None</i>		
Other		

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act or Legal implications relating to the compilation of this response. The council will make all efforts to represent the best interests of all of Slough's residents.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

The consultation response will take account of Equalities Impacts during compilation.

5 Supporting Information

5.1 At its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014 Cabinet requested officers compile a response to the Airports Commission consultation on short listed runway options. The draft response is presented to members at appendix A for comment.

5.2 The Airports Commission is an independent commission, chaired by Sir Howard Davies, and attended by 4 other Commissioners. The Commission is designed to examine the need for additional UK airport capacity, and to make recommendations to central government about how this need can be met.

5.3 In December 2013, the Commission published an Interim Report, which identified a short-list of three options for increasing the UK's aviation capacity comprising:

Gatwick Airport Second Runway  
Heathrow Hub: Extended Northern Runway  
Heathrow Airport Limited: New North West Runway

5.4 On November 11<sup>th</sup> 2014, the Commission published a consultation, allowing public comment on the three shortlisted options and the Commission's assessment. This consultation will run for 12 weeks, and will end on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015.

5.5 Following this public consultation, the Commission will submit a final report to government by summer 2015, which will assess the environmental, economic and social costs and benefits of a number of solutions to increase airport capacity.

5.6 The eight questions outlined in the Commission's consultation, published on November 11<sup>th</sup> 2014, are as follows:

*Q1: What conclusions, if any, do you draw in respect of the three short-listed options? In answering this question please take into account the Commission's consultation documents and any other information you consider relevant. The options are described in section three.*

*Q2: Do you have any suggestions for how the short-listed options could be improved, i.e. their benefits enhanced or negative impacts mitigated? The options and their impacts are summarised in section three.*

*Q3: Do you have any comments on how the Commission has carried out its appraisal? The appraisal process is summarised in section two.*

*Q4: In your view, are there any relevant factors that have not been fully addressed by the Commission to date?*

*Q5: Do you have any comments on how the Commission has carried out its appraisal of specific topics (as defined by the Commission's 16 appraisal modules), including methodology and results?*

*Q6: Do you have any comments on the Commission's sustainability assessments, including methodology and results?*

*Q7: Do you have any comments on the Commission's business cases, including methodology and results?*

*Q8: Do you have any other comments?*

- 5.7 Both proposals for expansion at Heathrow would result in a third runway crossing the borough boundary, and impacting heavily on land uses in Colnbrook and Poyle ward. Some impacts are common to both proposals while some arise from one or other of the options.
- 5.8 The Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL) proposal is for a new north-west runway of 3,500m, 1,045m north of the existing northern runway.
- 5.9 The Heathrow Hub (HH) proposal is for an extension of the existing northern runway, creating two in-line runways of 3000m in length separated by a 650m safety zone.
- 5.10 The level of detail available for the HH proposal is generally much less than for HAL, and while the council has engaged with both scheme promoters the engagement with HAL has yielded greater detail.

## **6 Comments of Other Committees**

At its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014 Cabinet requested officers to compile a response to the Airports Commission consultation. The comments received at that meeting have been incorporated into the draft response.

## **7 Conclusion**

The national consultation currently being held by the Airports Commission is a valuable opportunity for stakeholders to express their views on the proposed options for expanding aviation capacity in the UK. Slough will be substantially impacted by the two Heathrow based of the three shortlisted options, and thus it is important that the council has the opportunity to submit any issues with the proposals, to inform the Commission of local knowledge they have omitted, and to submit mitigations which the borough council has identified.

## **8 Appendices Attached**

'A' - Slough Borough Council draft response to the Airports Commission consultation on shortlisted options for a new runway (To Follow).