

CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT – 12 SEPTEMBER 2019

HEATHROW AIRPORT CONSULTATION

Report by Director for Planning & Place

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed consultation response on the Heathrow Airport Expansion, as set out in Paragraph (9) below**

Introduction

2. The consultation on the Heathrow airport Expansion opened on 18 June 2019. The consultation closing date is 13 September 2019. The consultation is based around a number of topics and themes, which can be found at <https://aec.heathrowconsultation.com/topics/>
3. It was agreed that the county council would aim to submit a joint response with Cherwell DC. Internal and external engagement with officers from both local authorities was undertaken on this basis.

Responses

4. The main concern raised by the proposals relates to the “Travelling to and from Heathrow – surface access” theme, specifically the potential impact of the proposals on the strategic transport network – both Highways and Public Transport.
5. Under Public Transport proposals, the consultation document includes the following statement: “We are committed to improving both the choice and range of options for people travelling to and from Heathrow”
6. However, a particular concern is the strategy for rail access to the airport, which does not currently include the Western Rail Link (Access to Heathrow) infrastructure project (as this is only a proposal, not a committed scheme).
7. It has also been questioned as to why any modelling of rail demand from areas further afield, such as Reading, the West Country and the Midlands (incl. Oxford) has not been undertaken.

8. The lack of guarantee of strategic public transport solutions coming forward places risk of significant additional pressure on the strategic road network, including the A34 corridor.
9. Our consultation response therefore proposes to make the following points and raise the associated questions:
 - i. Concern about how the strategic transport network is going to be able to accommodate additional trips, which requires proper consideration of how the impact on the strategic network is proposed to be mitigated;
 - ii. How investment in rail infrastructure (in particular) can be secured, for example the Western Rail Access to Heathrow project, complemented by potential strategic bus solutions linked to regional transport hubs;
 - iii. What opportunities are being taken to build in innovation, for example in relation to goods and servicing access to the site.

Exempt Information - N/A

Financial and Staff Implications - N/A

Equalities Implications - N/A

SUSAN HALLIWELL
Director for Planning & Place

Background papers:

An overview of the consultation can be viewed at:
<https://aec.heathrowconsultation.com/about/>

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