

Cabinet Member for Planning &
Environment

Bill Chapple OBE

Buckinghamshire County Council

County Hall, Walton Street
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP20 1UA

Telephone 0845 3708090

www.buckscc.gov.uk

Sent by email to:
economicregulation@caa.co.uk

Date: 19 December 2018

Ref: WP 26 CAP1722

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: CAP1722: Economic regulation of capacity expansion at Heathrow: policy update and consultation

Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Civil Aviation Authorities (CAA) latest policy update and consultation (**CAP1722**). **Heathrow has confirmed that Buckinghamshire will be** a host authority for the Heathrow expansion, principally as a location for mitigation.

In the April 2017 County Council members passed a Motion to support the Government's preferred option of a third runway at Heathrow. This support was conditional upon adequate measures to mitigate the impact on the residents in the south of the county, particularly our communities in the Ivers.

As the strategic authority in Buckinghamshire, BCC would want to highlight four areas which Heathrow expansion should seek to address through design, mitigation, construction and operations. These are;

- Local surface access improvements within and through Buckinghamshire
- Green and blue infrastructure mitigation
- Delivery and phasing of mitigation and possible funding shortfalls
- Phased increases in air traffic movements in parallel with transport and environmental improvements

Local surface access improvements

As part of the Heathrow expansion, local surface access improvements within Buckinghamshire are a priority for BCC, our residents and businesses. The proposed increases in flight numbers at Heathrow will substantially increase surface access during construction, by passengers, and staff and will generate additional road traffic from freight operators and service providers.

This will increase existing pressures on areas in southern Buckinghamshire, in particular the Ivers. We therefore are keen to ensure that local surface access improvements within Buckinghamshire will be funded by Heathrow and by Government to support the UK's principle economic gateway. BCC notes the important role of the CAA in the regulatory process and that the CAA has flagged concerns with the pressures of funding and the existing delays in deliverables.

BCC are keen to ensure that if the estimated costs for HAL increase, funding for the local surface access improvements within Buckinghamshire is not reduced by HAL moving funding to other projects. Three of the principle surface access deliverables for BCC are:

- Iver Relief Road
- Old Oak Common to Wycombe rail link
- Reduction in the cumulative impacts of other major projects

Green and Blue Infrastructure Mitigation

An important part of the Heathrow expansion for BCC is the green and blue infrastructure mitigation as this is something which will leave a significant sustainable legacy in the county and for the Colne Valley. We are keen to ensure that as part of the expansion funding green and blue infrastructure mitigation is appropriately and effectively funded and delivered.

As a host authority, member of the Colne Valley Park and operator of County Parks, we are keen to ensure that the mitigation for these areas is not reduced should Heathrow come under cost pressures.

Funding Shortfalls Mitigation

We welcome the CAA's approach to ensure all costs are meeting the efficiency, affordability and financeability tests. As a host authority we would like the assurance that any funding shortfalls will not fall on the local authorities. We are concerned that if any areas of the expansion funding encounter a shortfall or increase in cost that BCC, local residents and businesses would be asked by default to meet the extra costs of local mitigation.

Instead we consider that HAL, funders and central Government should put a mechanism in place to enable funding to come forward to deliver all requisite mitigation. This would protect BCC, as a local authority and service deliverer for the most vulnerable in our communities, from having to make further difficult decisions regarding funding.

Air Traffic Movements

We consider that there must be a principle condition across all regulatory regimes for expansion which links a phased increase in air traffic movements with the delivery of transport and environmental goals. As a condition of the approvals and to meet Airports National Policy Statement, to improve air quality and environmental conditions through the expansion, we believe that the increase in air traffic movements should only come when sustainable traffic methods and schemes are

shown to be working. We are concerned that increased air traffic and the associated surface vehicle emissions, will contribute further to the effects of poor air quality in surrounding areas. Our approach to this condition is a three stage, triple lock to enable air traffic movements to increase, there needs to be evidence of:

- investment in and delivery of surface access capacity
- A change to more sustainable method of travel to the airport through these sustainable schemes such as increased public transport access. This will consequently contribute
- to air quality improvements, providing evidence of progression and the ability to release additional capacity.

Yours sincerely,



Bill Chapple OBE
Cabinet Member for Planning & Environment
Buckinghamshire County Council

cc
Caroline Low

County Council



Notices of Motion

One motion has been received.

The Expansion of Heathrow Airport

Proposer: Martin Tett
Seconder: Mark Shaw

Resolution

This Council notes the Department for Transport's consultation on a National Policy Statement for runway capacity in the south east of England.

As a result of the economic benefits that could be achieved for Buckinghamshire, this Council supports the Government's preferred option of a third runway at Heathrow. This support is conditional upon the provision of appropriate mitigation for areas impacted in the south of the county, particularly the Greater Iver area. With this in mind this Council resolves to enter into discussions with both the Department for Transport and Heathrow Airport Limited to ensure Buckinghamshire benefits from the proposed development.