

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate use

LONDON LOCAL ELECTIONS: TIME TO DROP HEATHROW EXPANSION

Political parties from across London, vying for office in Thursday's local elections, have pledged their opposition to Heathrow expansion - enjoining the campaign led by the No 3rd runway Coalition (1), pledging that it is "time to drop Heathrow expansion" (2 & 3).

Despite Heathrow putting its plans to expand the airport on hold, while the airport recovers from the pandemic, Heathrow's management has stated that it will resume its effort to build another runway (which would entail adding an area that is larger than Birmingham airport to the current Heathrow estate, in order that it can add a quantity of flights to its schedules that equates to the number of flights flown from Gatwick each year) (4).

This election pledge is a reminder that Heathrow will find very little support in the areas that would be affected by the negative environmental impacts and added noise disturbance that expansion would bring, with opposition to their plans coming from the local leadership of all the main political parties.

In 2013, a referendum on Heathrow expansion in Hillingdon found two-thirds of voters opposed expansion (5). In 2021, every candidate for Mayor of London expressed opposition to Heathrow's plans (6). And campaigners are now in no doubt that the ongoing, trenchant, cross-party support for their campaign against Heathrow expansion is increasing and has spread right across the capital city.

Paul McGuinness, Chair of the No 3rd Runway Coalition, said:

"Very large numbers of pledges support of ongoing opposition to Heathrow expansion are arriving from councillors and candidates, from political parties across all of London. And like Hillingdon, the Airport's own borough, it has now become clear that their deepening opposition will endure until such time as the expansion of Heathrow airport is finally ruled out".

ENDS.

Notes:

1. The No 3rd Runway Coalition is a cross-party organisation.
2. London election candidates pictured with election pledge: (higher resolution image available on request)

<https://twitter.com/NoR3Coalition/status/1521390613614280704>

3. Blank election pledge:
https://www.no3rdrunwaycoalition.co.uk/files/ugd/8b8ad1_2bb4a925ca344a92a58071ce8cb5bccb.pdf
4. Heathrow puts 3rd runway back on agenda (23 Feb 2022)
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-02-23/heathrow-puts-new-runway-back-on-agenda-as-travel-edges-back>
5. Hillingdon and Richmond's Referendum on Heathrow expansion
<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/exclusive-100-000-heathrow-neighbours-say-no-to-third-runway-or-increase-in-flights-8625407.html>
6. All main London Mayoral candidates oppose Heathrow expansion, speaking to the No 3rd Runway Coalition (April 2021)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wt9yRBrBsC8>

For more information:

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