

Press Release

25 October 2017

For immediate release

MPs AGREE WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES THAT CASE FOR HEATHROW IS FUNDAMENTALLY FLAWED

Politicians and local campaign groups opposed to a 3rd runway gathered in their local areas on Wednesday morning to demonstrate that the consequences of expansion are unacceptable. The groups planted a total of 700 planes – the additional number that would use Heathrow each day with a 3rd runway – to highlight the blight that would be inflicted upon local communities.

A cross-party group of MPs, including shadow chancellor John McDonnell, Conservative MP Zac Goldsmith and Liberal Democrat leader Sir Vince Cable MP, gathered outside Westminster to send a message to the Government that Heathrow expansion cannot be delivered (1).

Gatherings were held in Teddington, Hammersmith, Sipson, Harmondsworth, Osterley, Englefield Green, Lightwater (Surrey Heath) and Kennington throughout Wednesday morning (2).

The events took place to highlight the negative impact expansion at Heathrow will have on local communities, one year after the Government had indicated that a third runway at Heathrow was its preferred option for airport expansion.

Despite the publication of new evidence yesterday to accompany the reopening of the public consultation on the draft National Policy Statement on Airports, huge question marks remain around the Heathrow scheme including; surface access costs, financial viability and planning risks whilst there is still no comprehensive plan to reduce air quality other than relying on the Government's widely criticised air quality plan.

Ruth Cadbury MP strongly outlined the negative economic and environmental impacts of airport expansion in a debate in Westminster Hall. During the debate Andy Slaughter MP suggested to the Government that given the evidence upon which the Government's policy was formed has fundamentally changed that Government should reassess its support for Heathrow expansion.

Zac Goldsmith, Co-Chair of the APPG on Heathrow expansion, said: *"Almost all aspects of the Airports Commission report, on which the government's decision was based, have been fatally undermined; whether in relation to the economic benefits, passenger numbers, connectivity, or air pollution. This project will cost the taxpayer billions, make Europe's noisiest and most polluting airport even noisier and more polluting, and will deliver just 7 additional long-haul routes. It is hard to think of any other major project where the benefits are so utterly dwarfed by the costs."*

Paul McGuinness, Chair of the No 3rd Runway Coalition, said: *"Local communities are clear that the costs of expansion at Heathrow, including as many as 700 more planes in the skies every single day, far outweigh any alleged benefits. The revised draft National Policy Statement highlights that a third*

runway is the costliest option considered by Government, carries the largest financial and planning risk and has the most significant and negative environmental impact. These are just some of the many reasons why expansion at Heathrow is simply not deliverable."

Ends.

Notes

1. Picture attached
2. Collage photo attached

