

Press Release

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For immediate use

Aviation Strategy fails to take off

The DfT's consultation paper on a new aviation strategy published yesterday is a missed opportunity to address the serious environmental impacts of aviation and to place a priority on the quality of life of local communities.

The document accepts that developments in technology, whilst driving innovation, can often result in a trade-off between addressing the different impacts of noise, carbon emissions and particulate pollution. It seems that the Government is content to allow the markets to deliver practical solutions for these serious issues.

Yet, interestingly, the document states that the strategy will consider "*in what circumstances it is appropriate for government to provide funding for transport access to airports*".¹ This is surely a signal that the Government accepts that it will have to make a significant and as yet unspecified financial contribution towards the costs of surface access improvements to support expansion at Heathrow.

Rob Barnstone, Coordinator for the No Third Runway Coalition said, "*It is disappointing that the aviation strategy whilst recognising the inherent conflict between increased growth and meeting the environmental challenges of aviation, fails to provide a robust and creative vision for the future. This is a missed opportunity for the Government to take a leading role in ensuring that the UK pioneers innovation that delivers on its commitments to the environment.*"

¹ Para 7.29 - Aviation Strategy: a call for evidence, (DfT), p. 59
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/631036/aviation-strategy-call-for-evidence.pdf

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For more information

Paul Beckford – 07775593928; pbeckford84@gmail.com