

**PRESS RELEASE**

20 August 2018

*For immediate use*

**ALL TORY MAYOR OF LONDON CANDIDATES COMMIT TO FIGHT HEATHROW EXPANSION**

All three Conservative candidates seeking the party's nomination for Mayor of London commit to fight their own Government's plans to expand Heathrow.

The opposition of all three candidates to the new runway will come as a potential embarrassment to the party, as their chosen mayoral candidate will be campaigning a key piece of government policy.

**Joy Morrissey**, who was the party's candidate in 2017 for Ealing Central & Acton, is no stranger to the campaign, saying she will *"I would work with Hillingdon, Richmond and other London Boroughs to oppose Heathrow expansion"* (1).

**Andrew Boff**, a member of the Greater London chair and former chair of the Conservative group, as well as an ex-leader of Hillingdon Council says that he *"opposed the 3rd runway as a Hillingdon party member in the 70's as a Councillor in the 80's as Council Leader in the 90's as an Assembly member in the 2000's and will do as Mayor in the 2020s. It will not happen."*

The third shortlisted candidate, **Shaun Bailey**, a GLA member and former parliamentary candidate in Hammersmith, said *"I have opposed the Third Runway for over a decade, still oppose it, always will"* (3).

The Conservatives forced a three-line whip on its MPs in June to vote for the plans, with Prime Minister Theresa May, once a strong opponent of expansion at Heathrow, included the third runway in a list of key items in the Government's programme at Prime Ministers Questions in July (4).

This comes as no fewer than six legal challenges have been launched against the NPS (5). In addition the consortium of four London Boroughs (Hammersmith & Fulham, Hillingdon, Richmond, Wandsworth), the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, City Hall (which includes Transport for London) and Greenpeace, separate action has been launched by environmental group Friends of the Earth, Plan B - another environmental group. Additional challenges by Heathrow Hub Ltd - who presented an alternative option for expansion at Heathrow, as well as Twickenham resident and solicitor, Neil Spurrier and Robin Clarke, a resident in Birmingham (5). It is thought that a judicial review may be heard later in the year.

**Paul McGuinness, Chair of the No 3<sup>rd</sup> Runway Coalition, said:**

*"This is a no-brainer position by these candidates who are showing they are keen to reflect London's view, supported by referendums on expansion in two boroughs which saw very strong*

*margins against expansion. Whichever of the three candidates is chosen, it is clear that they are keen carry the opposition to Heathrow expansion into the ballot box.*

*“These six legal challenges will for the first time put the Governments National Policy Statement under real scrutiny for the first time. We are confident the plans will begin to fall apart sooner rather than later.”*

ENDS.

Notes:

1. Cllr Joy Morrissey, tweet 17/8/18  
<https://twitter.com/joymorrissey/status/1030277655583776769>
2. Andrew Boff AM, tweet 26/7/18  
<https://twitter.com/AndrewBoff/status/1022572242662776839>
3. Shaun Bailey AM, tweet 26/7/18  
<https://twitter.com/ShawnBaileyUK/status/1022558332287115266>
4. Theresa May, PMQs, Column 888, Hansard, 27/6/18 <http://bit.ly/2OHNQJQ>
5. Six Challenges to Airports NPS, Bircham Dyson Bell, 9/8/18 <https://www.bdb-law.co.uk/blogs/planning-act-2008/804-six-challenges-to-airports-nps/>

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