

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate use

FORMER DEPUTY MAYOR OF LONDON TAKES HEATHROW CASH

Today, Val Shawcross OBE has today told the Financial Times that it would be “a disaster for London” if Heathrow expands without properly addressing their environmental impact. (1)

It was announced last week that Val Shawcross OBE, former Deputy Mayor of London had agreed to become the next Chair of the Heathrow Area Transport Forum. The Forum, is tasked with improving accessibility and increasing public transport around Heathrow. The forum sets the targets for Heathrow’s sustainable transport plan which currently seeks to increase public transport mode share of passengers to 45% by the end of 2019.

However, just a couple of weeks ago, Heathrow’s CEO admitted that the airport has failed to meet their 2018 target of the share of passengers travelling to the airport by public transport. (2) This makes the required target set out in the Airports NPS even harder to achieve and demonstrates that Heathrow are likely to fail to meet the target

The Forum, despite having a statutory role does not actually have any powers to penalise Heathrow if it misses these targets. The level of passengers travelling to the airport is currently just under 41% which has risen from just under 40% in 2009.

It should also be highlighted that the Forum is not independent but was established and is funded by Heathrow including the salary of the Chair. Money raised from Heathrow car parks is predominately used to pay for its operations. (3)

Rob Barnstone, Coordinator of the No 3rd Runway Coalition, said:

“It is extremely disappointing that yet again Heathrow’s deep pockets have been used to buy them the mirage of respectability. Val Shawcross served London with distinction for many years and was an ardent opponent of expansion. Indeed, she told the Transport Select Committee only last year in about the noise, air pollution and health impacts that a third runway would impose on Londoners.

“It is incredibly frustrating that Val is now working for Heathrow to help them pollute our air, increase congestion on our roads and worsen the quality of life for millions across the city. The last thing local communities need is another non-accountable body lacking the power and resources to actually enforce the promises Heathrow makes.”

ENDS.

Notes:

1. *Heathrow must curb pollution to avoid airport expansion ‘disaster’*, Financial Times, 28 May 2019, <https://www.ft.com/content/ea9a8880-7e21-11e9-81d2-f785092ab560?desktop=true&segmentId=d8d3e364-5197-20eb-17cf-2437841d178a>

2. Heathrow reports mixed progress against carbon neutral road map, Business Green, 13 May 2019, <https://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/3075561/heathrow-reports-mixed-progress-against-carbon-neutral-road-map>
3. DfT Guidance on Airport Transport Forums and Airport Surface Access Strategies. <https://democracy.luton.gov.uk/cm5public/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFLIDTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=VJGNGui2Zu2x2Z%2BYlYMrHGLkTh4KLo2hngGOZBGOFqPFB%2FIRXkIRog%3D%3D&rUzwRPF%2BZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3D%3D=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2FLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3D%3D&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlq%3D%3D=hFfIUdN3100%3D&kCx1AnS9%2FpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3D%3D=hFfIUdN3100%3D&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2BAJvYtyA%3D%3D=ctNJff55vVA%3D&FgPIIEJYlotS%2BYGoBi5oIA%3D%3D=NHdURQburHA%3D&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJff55vVA%3D&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0rIQ8Za60lavYmz=ctNJff55vVA%3D&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaGIPaO=ctNJff55vVA%3D>

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