**PRESS RELEASE**

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*For immediate use*

**Election candidates line up to support campaign against Heathrow expansion**

150 candidates standing for election on Thursday 3 May have lined up to back the campaign opposing expansion Heathrow (1).

The election pledge issued by No 3rd Runway Coalition, to candidates standing in the election called for support to the campaign against Heathrow expansion if elected later this week.

81 candidates from Hillingdon and 65 candidates from Hounslow have had their pictures taken and support is strong across all the political parties, including the Conservatives and Labour in both boroughs. The Liberal Democrats and Green parties are national, long-standing opponents of the plans.

According to campaigners, the keenness of the large number of election candidates to have a picture with the pledge echoes the recent referendum on Heathrow expansion held in Richmond and Hillingdon, which saw voters reject the plans by a margin of 72%, with just 28% in favour (2).

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

*“It is clear that local support for Heathrow expansion is very weak and that candidates standing in these elections realise this. If plans for expansion at Heathrow are so popular, why were local candidates lining up to back our campaign?*

*“We ran this campaign in Hillingdon and Hounslow but we’re confident that this level of support would have been replicated in other boroughs such as Wandsworth, Hammersmith & Fulham, Kingston and well beyond.*

*“A referendum in Richmond and Hillingdon on this issue a few years ago saw 72% of voters reject oppose the plans. Heathrow expansion is not wanted locally and will not deliver nationally.”*

*Ends.*

Notes:

1. Example images attached. Further, high resolution pictures available on request, or via @NoR3Coalition twitter page <https://twitter.com/NoR3Coalition>
2. <http://www.richmond.gov.uk/be_heard>

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