

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate use

47 sites, including in the North East, miss out on helping to build a third runway at Heathrow despite MP support

Heathrow recently announced their shortlist of potential sites to locate their logistics hub which may form part of the construction programme for their expansion proposals (1).

The original longlist of 65 (2) has now been reduced to 18 meaning that 47 sites have had their hopes dashed, including the South Tees Development Corporation, who had but in a bid for a site in Teesside.

The 18 shortlisted sites will still have to compete if they hope to become one of the final four chosen. This means a further 14 sites will have been taxied up the runway only to be told that they are not cleared for take-off.

The final shortlist is expected to be announced in early 2020.

MPs across the region such as Anna Turley (Redcar), Catherine McKinnell (Newcastle North), originally stated these logistics hubs as a basis for their support for the project (3/4).

However, some MPs, including Labour's Shadow Transport Secretary Andy McDonald (Middlesbrough), Grahame Morris (Easington), Helen Goodman (Bishop Auckland), Ian Mearns (Gateshead) and Laura Pidcock (North West Durham) voted against the proposals (5).

Paul McGuinness, Chair of the No 3^d Runway Coalition, said:

"This cynical attempt to persuade the regions of the UK that expansion at Heathrow will benefit them is now beginning to stall.

"All of the 65 longlisted sites would have been made promises from Heathrow about how they will benefit economically as long as they support expansion and lobby their politicians to do the same.

"Many politicians in the North East supported Heathrow expansion last year on the basis of these proposals.

"As it is now evident that those areas that were not shortlisted, the North East has endured a similar fate to the local communities around Heathrow; simply another broken Heathrow promise."

The scattergun approach adopted by Heathrow is an attempt to make their expansion plan more affordable. However, there remain no details about precisely what sort of construction will be required to take place off site.

Further, a total of five judicial reviews against the Government's decision to support expansion at Heathrow have only just concluded in the High Court. If even one of these are successful then the likelihood of a serious delay in the expansion programme is increased significantly.

ENDS.

Notes:

1. Shortlist of potential logistics hubs
<http://mediacentre.heathrow.com/pressrelease/details/81/Brand-News-22/10886>
2. Longlist of 65 potential logistics hubs
<http://mediacentre.heathrow.com/pressrelease/details/81/Expansion-News-23/8950>
3. Anna Turley MP, Hansard, 25 June 2018, Column 698
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-06-25/debates/C9B5DFC3-043B-4528-BEF1-34D9512E637D/NationalPolicyStatementAirports>
4. Catherine McKinnell MP, Hansard, 25 June 2018, Column 714
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-06-25/debates/C9B5DFC3-043B-4528-BEF1-34D9512E637D/NationalPolicyStatementAirports>
5. A list of which MPs voted for and against Heathrow expansion can be found here
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-06-25/division/8A2B2442-17BD-44C7-A19E-9FDB5A9FE7B9/NationalPolicyStatementAirports?outputType=Party>

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