

**Press Release**

13 June 2018

For immediate use

**LABOUR COUNCIL JOINS LEGAL CHALLENGE AGAINST HEATHROW EXPANSION**

Hammersmith and Fulham Council become the first Labour-run local authority to join the plans for legal action against plans to expand Heathrow (1).

Action is being prepared alongside four other authorities should MPs vote in favour of Heathrow expansion in coming weeks. Hammersmith & Fulham will join four other authorities, which include Prime Minister Theresa May's own local authority, the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, as well as the London boroughs of Hillingdon, Richmond and Wandsworth should the action be launched.

**Announcing the decision on Wednesday, Leader of Hammersmith & Fulham Council, Stephen Cowan, said:**

*"We absolutely refuse to sit back and let such a potentially catastrophic decision be made without a fight."*

*"We've made our stance very clear; a third runway at Heathrow would mean more noise for residents already suffering noise disturbance, more pressure on our roads and an unacceptable increase in air pollution."*

*"If we need to take legal action, we will, as the environmental cost of meekly accepting a decision in favour of expansion, would be far worse."*

**Paul McGuinness, Chair of the No 3rd Runway Coalition, said:**

*"The Coalition has been inundated with expressions of support from Labour councillors in recent months. So, the decision of Hammersmith & Fulham to commit itself to joining ranks with other councils to defeat the third runway proposal in the courts, if necessary, seems to wholly chime with the mood of London's Labour party."*

*"We hope that parliament votes against a third runway at Heathrow, so the matter will not need to be put to sleep by judges. But the government and MPs would be unwise to underestimate the determination of London councils to defeat a third runway in the courts, and to allow this interminable process to drag on until it is kyboshed there".*

In January 2017, it was ruled in the High Court that any legal action should be launched within six weeks of a vote in Parliament taking place (2).

ENDS.

Notes

1. <https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/articles/news/2018/06/hf-council-vows-keep-fighting-third-runway-plans>
2. <https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/31802/Government-puts-off-the-inevitable-as-Heathrow-legal-challenge-delayed>

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