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13<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear John

### **Airport Expansion Consultation June 2019 – Heathrow Strategic Planning Group Response**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your Airport Expansion Consultation (AEC). HSPG's purpose is to engage positively with Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL) to ensure we can shape expansion plans, minimising negative impacts and maximising benefits for local communities.

At this stage, HSPG has to state its deep concern with the information and plans provided. HSPG has been working with HAL for several years to shape the scheme, yet fundamental issues and concerns remain. There has been a lack of action to address these frequently highlighted concerns.

Given the extent of our comments, our response is set out in the attached report. We would highlight two overriding concerns.

- The AEC does not provide the level of detail needed for HSPG to adequately assess impacts and respond accordingly. There are many areas which will require further consultation. For example, the PEIR should have been carried out at a later stage to be of value. This is a vital area for further consultation. HAL should consider putting back their timeline for DCO submission to enable sufficient further engagement.
- As frequently highlighted by HSPG, there is a real lack of ambition and legacy. You state you are committed to "growing sustainably to create a lasting legacy". We do not see this legacy in your plans. HAL's ambitions seem to have been rowed back as financial considerations increasingly dictate. For example, surface access plans are very disappointing, ignoring the wider effects of expansion across the sub-region. There is no commitment to strategic transport improvements which could ensure growth is sustainable and enables all communities to access opportunities equitably. We are also deeply concerned on the poor green and blue infrastructure proposals. They miss an opportunity for high quality, connected spaces which could improve residents' quality of life.

Finally, a number of HSPG Local Authorities have recently declared a Climate Emergency. We note the Committee on Climate Change is to soon make its recommendations for how the aviation sector can meet the 2050 net zero carbon target. Following these recommendations, we would expect further proposals and engagement on how expansion will meet them.

We welcome ongoing positive engagement with HAL to overcome these issues as you continue to create the further, much needed, detail.

Yours sincerely



Lucy Owen, Executive Director