

Joint Spatial Planning Framework (Feb. 2020) and draft Statement of Common Ground

Purpose of the HSPG's Joint Spatial Planning Framework

The HSPG's Joint Spatial Planning Framework (Feb. 2020) sets out a sub-regional scale strategic spatial vision and action plan for the next 30 years that responds to the Heathrow Airport expansion scheme with an additional Northwest Runway consistent with the Airports National Policy Statement (2018). The Joint Spatial Planning Framework (JSPF) has been prepared through the collaborative work of the Members and regular Observer Members of the HSPG over the last two years, and the JSPF was finalised by the individual member bodies and the HSPG Leaders Board on 20 February 2020, together with a draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) and set of further actions to now take this forward.

The finalised documents, joint agreed evidence base and infrastructure study (JEBIS) and a short summary description of the JSPF are available [here](#) from the HSPG website.

The work to date was principally funded by a Planning Delivery Fund grant from MHCLG. HSPG envisaged that the JSPF (Feb. 2020) would provide the basis of engagement with Heathrow Airport Limited and other key stakeholders in coming months, and then be updated at the end of 2020. The documents drew heavily on a Joint Evidence Base and Infrastructure Study (JEBIS) – Updated August 2019 which was jointly commissioned with Heathrow Airport Ltd, and all parties were committed to updating during 2020.

Change of circumstances

The finalised documents reflect the national planning and aviation policies and the economic circumstances pertaining at that time, including the Government's designation of the Airports National Policy Statement – 2018 (ANPS) and Heathrow Airport Limited's programme to submit a Development Consent Order application in late 2020, planned to achieve full operational use of a new Northwest Runway during 2029. Circumstances have now changed dramatically with the Court of Appeal decision of 27 February and the unfolding impact of COVID-19.

The Court of Appeal made a 'declaration' that the Government should review the ANPS to explain how it has 'take into account' the firm government policy commitments made under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The Government's response is awaited and legal challenges to the decision may be made by others. The lasting impacts of COVID-19 on society, economy and air travel and airport expansion are all unknown. Therefore, the national planning policies, forecasts, assumptions and priorities on which the JSPF (Feb. 2020) was based may change in ways that are not yet clear. This statement marks the end of this phase of the JSPF work; a new phase of work can then build from this base.

This Position Statement of the HSPG confirms that:

- 1. The HSPG Leaders Board of 20 February and individual member organisations finalised the Joint Spatial Planning Framework (February 2020) and accompanying draft Statement of Common Ground. The documents reflect the views and aspirations of the members in the prevailing context at that time and draw heavily on a jointly commissioned Joint Evidence Base and Infrastructure Study (JEBIS) – August 2019.*
- 2. The HSPG recognise that the planning policy context, priorities and growth forecasts and assumptions on which the JSPF and JEBIS are based are now uncertain and must be treated with considerable caution. Despite this, the documents should be published in the current form to: (a)*

establish a public record of the Group's activities and output achieved through the use of grant funding; and (b) establish the end point and output of this phase of activity.

- 3. The HSPG will utilise the current JSPF (February 2020) and accompanying evidence base and SoCG as the starting point for a new phase of work, the form of which will be determined in coming months.*
- 4. The members of the HSPG confirm their commitment to sub-regional scale collaborative joint planning activity for the HSPG area and recognise the value of this approach to facing a variety of future challenges in our area including any future changes and growth at Heathrow Airport.*
- 5. Updates to this position statement and our next steps will be published through the HSPG website in due course. Any queries should be directed to the HSPG Secretariat using **contact details** available on the website.*