

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of over 100,000 local residents who care about the future of Heathrow airport, we remind you of the importance of the issue and urge you to approve a new runway soon.

Whilst we understand that you will be preoccupied with the EU referendum over the next few weeks, it is vitally important to residents in west London who want certainty over Heathrow expansion, that you make a decision as soon as possible.

Heathrow expansion has the unrivalled backing of most local residents living near the airport, businesses, exporters, airlines, trade unions, regional airports and a majority of MPs.

A green light for expansion at the UK's biggest port would mean £211bn economic benefits and 180,000 jobs up and down the country. The Airports Commission states that 77,000 jobs will be created in the south-east alone whilst Heathrow has announced that a new runway would bring 10,000 apprenticeships, effectively eradicating youth unemployment in local boroughs.

Using Treasury modelling, a new Heathrow runway will be the UK's best value infrastructure project. Heathrow is the most deliverable solution to the country's airport capacity problem because it builds on one of the UK's strongest national assets. Over the last decade, £11bn of private investment has already been spent on making Heathrow world-class.

Independent experts have confirmed that a new Heathrow runway will give Britain the most connected hub airport in the world whilst meeting strict environmental conditions and legal air quality limits.

A few say that Gatwick expansion would be better. But a new runway at Gatwick is not the answer because the UK's hub airport at Heathrow would remain full so the problem would not go away. Meanwhile, Gatwick's plans would get bogged down in legal challenges and huge protests in an unspoilt area of rural England. There is little demand or widespread support for a new Gatwick runway, so why build in the wrong place?

Airport expansion in Sussex does not get us to emerging markets, does nothing for the regions of the UK, does little for exports, delivers a fraction of the jobs, provides few economic benefits and is less financially robust. Gatwick does not have the support of business, unions, the local community, airlines or most MPs. It offers local people no respite from noise and has only one motorway and one railway line, making it difficult to access.

All of this shows that when it comes to airport expansion in the south-east, there is only one possible location for a new runway. As the chair of your National Infrastructure Commission put it: Heathrow expansion is "the only show in town". The public are also strongly supportive as demonstrated by more than 82% of the 70,591 responses to the Airports Commission's public consultation saying 'yes' to Heathrow expansion.

We now hope you listen to the Airports Commission and implement its findings so that we can start to build a bigger and better Heathrow which will benefit the whole of the UK.

Yours faithfully,

Rob Gray
Back Heathrow
Campaign Director