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Sent to: air.quality@airports.gsi.gov.uk

28 May 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Response to Airports Commission: Consultation on Air Quality Assessment

Surrey County Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Airports Commission's consultation on air quality assessment. I am pleased to set out officer comments, which have been agreed with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning.

The county council has previously responded to consultations from the Commission and has consistently set out its view that it is critical for the environmental and surface access issues to be satisfactorily addressed if there is to be expansion at either Heathrow Airport or Gatwick Airport.

Q6: Do you have any comments on the Commission's sustainability assessments, including methodology and results?

The air quality assessment indicates that there will be air pollution issues associated with all three shortlisted options by 2030 if either Heathrow Airport or Gatwick Airport were to be expanded. Furthermore, as 2030 is before either airport is likely to be operating at full capacity - and a two runway Gatwick is not expected to reach full capacity until 2050 – there must be some doubt as to whether the assessment adequately reflects the possible scale of potential adverse air quality impacts.

Therefore, it is important that the Airports Commission stresses in its recommendations to Government the need to mitigate increased air pollution and, as much of this relates to traffic flows on links to the airports, the need for investment in road improvements to relieve congestion and in public transport access to the airports. Any National Policy Statement on airports should address the range of mitigation measures needed to avoid or reduce the air pollution impacts on local

people and businesses and how airport operators and other organisations will deliver them. These measures are likely to require resource commitments from central Government and the airport operators to fund them.

In our response to the Commission's consultation on the shortlisted options we identified the transport improvements we consider necessary to reduce existing and anticipated traffic congestion associated with an expanded Heathrow and an expanded Gatwick that will need to be funded. These include improvements to highways infrastructure on a number of roads and at key junctions, a new southern rail link to Heathrow, improvements to the North Downs Line to support an expanded Gatwick and improvements to bus and coach services.

It is disappointing that the Commission has only allowed three weeks to respond to the consultation as this has not allowed sufficient time for organisations and communities to consider the impacts of the expansion proposals on air quality in their local areas.

I hope the above comments are useful. [REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

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