

Freepost RTKX-USUC-CXAS
Airports Commission Consultation
PO Box 1492
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GU22 2QR

February 3, 2015

Dear Sir/madam

Response to Consultation: Heathrow Airport North West Runway: Business Case and Sustainability.

EBSI has been a long standing business firstly based in Ealing for 7 years and now in Uxbridge for the last 3 years. Our business focuses on bringing local businesses and students from schools and colleges in collaboration with each other through work related programmes, to prepare them for the world of work.

EBSI have worked and are welcomed to contribute to Heathrow's Community Investment team and its programmes as it works with the local schools and colleges, which aim to support the economic prosperity of the communities surrounding the airport. The key objectives of the Heathrow Community Investment team are to positively engage with local schools, colleges and universities; raise awareness of high quality careers to young people, their parents and wider job seekers; support skills development to reduce local unemployment, and to help business grow.

The community investment team hosts stakeholder meetings on a quarterly basis and EBSI supports, contribute and engages with Heathrow on their programmes, and acts as a catalyst between the community investment team and the schools and colleges.

As the Managing Director of a local company we fully endorse the expansion of Heathrow Airport. We have been partners to Heathrow's contribution to the education and employment sector for over 10 years and have seen the contribution Heathrow has made to the local economy.

EBSI is very passionate about the expansion of the Heathrow Airport North West Runway and initially we feel that the borough of Hillingdon itself will gain tremendously, with other surrounding boroughs following suit.

Heathrow Academy which is very successful in training young people for employment and has also recruited many local people has the following figures for 2014

Heathrow Academy – Figures for Hillingdon for 2014

	Local people trained	Local people placed into work
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Retail	118	96
Aviation & Logistics	86	17
Construction	19	2
Totals	223	115

Heathrow Employment Figures for Hillingdon

15.2% (10,034) - The proportion of people employed at Heathrow who live in Hillingdon

7.7% (10,034 out of 130,290) - The proportion of employed people in Hillingdon who work at Heathrow.

Heathrow's expansion will enable the UK to connect to bigger emerging global markets. China and India are just two examples of the increasing Asia markets that the UK needs to connect to if we are to see growth in our own markets.

An expanded airport will enable more routes to be added to Heathrow thereby enabling Britain to be taken and seen to be a serious player in the growth and expansion of global business.

Currently Heathrow's freight capacity is running at full capacity 97% however an expansion will ensure that Heathrow can take on more, and expand our markets to long haul destinations.

Heathrow airport is well linked to London which makes it an attractive destination for International business users and it is also ideal as Head Office for many international companies.

Slough is situated within a few miles of Heathrow and this hosts one of the biggest trading estates in Europe and again is home to many Head Offices for international businesses, which once again attracts more business to the local vicinity, as Slough is regarded as a good geographical base to London, Heathrow and other parts of the country.

The M4 is within minutes from Heathrow airport which is geographically well placed not only for business travellers but also for the transportation of freight to the West Country, the Midlands and the North of the country.

Airports Commission – Heathrow Assessment

The local economic impact assessment can be found on P.95-101. Top line statistics in the summary include:

UK economic benefits

The Airports Commission puts the economic benefit of expansion at Heathrow at £211bn.

New jobs (2050)

The Commission says expanding Heathrow could deliver 179,600 new jobs by 2050, 102,900 new jobs in London and the South East.

Direct employment at Airport (Today; Baseline; Expansion)

Today: 84,400 jobs

Baseline (2030): -14,000 to +3,000

Expansion (2030): up to 41,400 new jobs

The Airport commission quote all of the above, and in direct line with this and more importantly could create over 40,000 new jobs by 2030. All of which will not only contribute to the local economy but also contribute to new housing that will be needed for the new workforce. The UK housing market is in need of expansion at a fast rate, the job creation for not just Heathrow but also the South East will also once again mean jobs in other industry sectors such as Construction, building and maintenance, electronics, etc. Heathrow's Academy which also trains in Construction will be well placed to deliver training for this future expansion.

The promise of Heathrow documents in September 2014 identifies that an expansion of Heathrow will not only tackle youth unemployment, but also help with narrowing the skills gap. Heathrow's nearest borough Hillingdon has just under 4% NEET (Not in Employment Education or Training), whilst Ealing has just over 3%. This expansion could tackle issues such as NEET not only in Hillingdon but also in the surrounding boroughs of Ealing and Slough.

Heathrow's annual Jobs and Careers Fair hosts and brings together many of Heathrow's businesses and exposes them to the young people who look to Heathrow for future employment. This annual event is in its 8th year and has become part of the Careers departments' calendar as the event sees over 5,000 local students attend and parents have also been encouraged to attend. The local strategic 14-19 education groups and Head teachers groups expect Heathrow to deliver jobs to local young people as it did to their parents and grandparents alike. These expectations can only be fulfilled if Heathrow is allowed to expand and meet its global demands.

Expansion will help double the number of apprenticeships across the airport to 10,000 and extend programmes to champion employability training in schools, within the surrounding areas, whilst the expansion will create more than 180,000 new jobs and has the potential to end youth unemployment in the five local Heathrow boroughs.

EBSI has been working in partnership with Heathrow for over 10 years in local schools and colleges and in this time seen a great contribution from Heathrow and its personnel. The Heathrow Engineering Challenge which has been running since 2007 for primary schools was then replicated to secondary schools, and thus enabled EBSI to be actively involved with Heathrow staff and help facilitate the programme within the local boroughs.

As a small organisation EBSI worked very closely with Heathrow community investment team to devise and deliver the Engineering programmes, which have not only been given great creditability over the years, but are much looked sought after by the schools.

Over the years the programme has succeeded and has grown to see over 520 students take part on an annual basis, this enables the participants to come into direct contact with over 33 Heathrow Apprentices and volunteers. Hillingdon schools have also had the opportunity for many years and over 420 students have taken part and liaised with volunteers. These experiences are crucial for young people as it gives them the chance to talk to real apprentices and staff and gives them an insight into the world of work from local personnel that are working at Heathrow.

Heathrow always had a vision which looked further down the chain, and has for many years delivered the Primary Schools Engineering challenge which once again has been very successful. This challenge, not only sees young pupils gaining experience and knowledge of engineering but teamwork, etc. More importantly their teachers who are given an INSET training day to deliver the programmes in the schools post the event to keep it going. Over 3,057 Primary School students take part in the challenge, supported by 48 volunteers from Heathrow. The idea to have an engineering challenge for primary students was devised by the Community team in partnership with EBSI to allow young minds to be inspired with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths subjects) in a fun and active way.

Last but not least Heathrow Community Fund is part of an independently run grant-making charity LHR Airport Communities Trust (registered charity number 1058617) which makes donations to community projects local to the airport. The aim is to create significant and positive social change, through three distinct grant schemes which are Communities for Tomorrow, Communities for Youth and Communities Together all of who contribute over £110,000 to local community groups and charities.

EBSI's Managing Director is on the board of Communities Together and values the contribution this fund makes to small organizations who wish to run community based projects to enable local people to live and develop projects that can benefit their small communities. The fund is monitored by the board who follow criteria to award funds to many different charities and small organizations, and has many successful stories where the funds have changed and made a difference in many people's lives.

The Local Hillingdon Community Trust is a local grant making trust which also funds voluntary and community projects in the Borough of Hillingdon in deprived wards. The donation from the Terminal 5 building fund will have paid out over £1million over 15 years to local community groups. Already over £1,086,110 has been granted to local groups many of which would not be able to have sustainable programmes if it wasn't for the trust.

In conclusion, it would only make economic sense for the expansion of Heathrow if the UK is to grow as an economic centre and more importantly keep its prime position as the financial centre of Europe. For the first time ever in March 2014, New York took over this prime position, purely due to the financial crisis facing Europe, however should the expansion not take place, we would look to lose the financial industry to other parts of the world such as Dubai or the USA, if we do not have an airport that attracts the financial industry.

The expansion will enable not only London but also the surrounding areas to benefit for the long term, as well as enable the UK to keep up with the growth in the economic markets of the world and to strengthen its ties with the far east Asia markets that are emerging on the horizon.

Exports markets will not only create more employment, but also enable UK to keep up with its European counterparts and competitors. The UK no longer has the luxury of having a huge manufacturing industry to survive on, hence our export markets need to increase, and our service industry need to become a prime focus. Heathrow's own Academy also focuses on Retail as a prime sector and once again sets an example for other large companies to follow suit.

The service industries will enable local jobs not just directly at Heathrow, but London, and other areas to create jobs for the next generation, all of this is imperative as the government has raised the (RPA) raising of the participation age to 18 in schools and this means that students need to interface even more with business communities to prepare and to know that there are jobs waiting for them when they finally finish their education.

Heathrow's expansion will benefit not only the local community but the country as a whole, if we are to keep moving with the competitors of the world, and have a strong hold on the markets of the world. As with any expansion – investment is needed, hence Heathrow is the future of the country, and so investment is needed. It has been on the map for a long time as a key player in the aviation industry and a major route for businesses and in order for Heathrow to remain to be seen in this way expansion is definitely needed.

As a local service provider to schools, colleges, universities and businesses – we strongly support the expansion of Heathrow and the prospect of it having future employment and training opportunities for the next generation.

Kind regards

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