



Press Release

Monday 7 March 2016

Independent Transport Commission says technical innovation should overcome environmental obstacles to Heathrow expansion

The Independent Transport Commission (ITC) has published a report today which has concluded that the environmental challenges around airport expansion at Heathrow are not insuperable, commenting that it should be “possible for the UK to drive down the environmental costs of aviation while realising the great connectivity benefits that an expanded hub can provide.”

The report, commissioned by ITC, Britain’s leading research charity focused on transport, land-use and planning issues, has found that technological and other improvements are available to mitigate any increases in noise, CO2 and oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) emissions arising from airport expansion.

Jock Lowe, Director of Heathrow Hub, commented:

“We very much welcome the findings of this report, which provides independent evidence that important sustainability concerns surrounding airport expansion at Heathrow can be overcome.

“The report shows that improved technology, sustainable fuels and carbon trading can mitigate effects from growth in aviation, whilst NOx emissions, of which road travel is the largest contributor, can be reduced with continuous improvement in automotive technology. This follows the DfT’s forecast that NOx emissions from road vehicles will be reduced by 62% by 2040.

“Finally, the report also highlights how our proposal would move the noise contour 3km to the west, reducing the number of people in the noise footprint in addition to the overall reduction in noise from aircraft through improved technology.”

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Notes to editors

The report, commissioned by ITC, was authored by Peter Hind and RDC Aviation, with advice from the ITC Steering Group, comprising Dr Stephen Hickey, Simon Linnett, Professor Peter Jones and Dr Matthew Niblett. The report can be downloaded in full [here](#) or alternatively can be found at: <http://www.theitc.org.uk/>

Heathrow Hub is an independent, proposal for an integrated air and rail facility that doubles Heathrow's capacity and creates new opportunities for noise mitigation. For more information, please visit: www.heathrowhub.com