



## Press Release

1<sup>st</sup> July 2015

# Heathrow Hub responds to the Airports Commission Final Report

Heathrow Hub, the independent proposal to expand Heathrow by extending the northern runway, welcomes the decision by the Airports Commission to select Heathrow Airport as the location for expanding UK airport capacity.

We are, however, disappointed the Airports Commission's Final Report did not select our own proposal and instead chose Heathrow Airport Ltd's north west runway, the "third runway", which has been rejected by politicians and local communities in West London before and may be so again.

Sir Howard Davies acknowledges that our innovative proposal has significant advantages, including being £3bn cheaper than the third runway and potentially demolishing only 242 homes compared to 783 for the third runway. He has also endorsed some of our ideas for noise mitigation, including an end to night quota flights.

He found our concept could provide slightly less capacity than the third runway, and less respite close to the airport, which we accept. But we do not agree with his rejection of our idea for a new passenger hub to the north and he failed to accept all our noise mitigation proposals such as deeper landings in the early morning period, sophisticated respite and curved approaches.

Captain William 'Jock' Lowe and his fellow Directors of Heathrow Hub, said:

"Heathrow Airport is the correct location for expansion for the UK. Our economy, our national transport infrastructure and our international connectivity will be vastly improved by the expansion of Heathrow Airport. While we obviously still believe our own concept to extend the runways is superior to Heathrow Airport Ltd.'s third runway option, we congratulate John Holland-Kaye and his team.

"We recognise that the Commission has spoken but we will continue to liaise with ministers and civil servants to ensure our proposal is properly understood as a cheaper, simpler and more politically deliverable option.

"From the beginning we have maintained that Heathrow is the answer and, while we still believe our proposal is cheaper, simpler and more politically deliverable, we are relieved that the Commission has made the correct decision in terms of location. Heathrow is where the airlines want to be; it's where the demand is.

"In addition my fellow directors and I would like to thank Sir Howard Davies and his team for running a generally thorough process to answer the question posed to them by the Government. Ministers must now decide how to proceed, and we urge the Government to implement airport expansion as swiftly as possible for the sake of the UK economy."



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**Notes to editors**

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](http://www.heathrowhub.com)