

Leader of the Council

Martin Tett

Buckinghamshire County Council

County Hall, Walton Street
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP20 1UA

Telephone 01296 382302
Email mtett@buckscc.gov.uk
www.buckscc.gov.uk

Ms Lisa Popa
2 Northumberland Walk
Richings Park
Iver
Bucks
SL0 9AW

23 April 2014

Dear Ms Popa

SUBJECT PROPOSED AIRPORT EXPANSION AT HEATHROW

Thank you for your letter of 14 April regarding Heathrow expansion. The council responds to any new proposals outside existing policy in the context of its adopted policy framework. In this case the council's Local Transport Plan makes it clear that there are advantages to the connectivity that the UK's busiest airport provides, and the council's Strategic Plan also recognises the need to improve connectivity to Heathrow. The Local Enterprise Partnership has also recognised the important economic role that Heathrow Airport plays in both the regional and indeed national economy. It is also a major employer and generator of local business growth.

However, there are also clear negative implications as I mentioned previously, not least the noise and air pollution associated with any expansion, as well as knock-on impacts for the surrounding road network and impacts on the environment – both areas in which the county council has strong policies. Given the competing benefits and disbenefits of airport expansion at Heathrow it seems highly likely that any consultation with residents across the county as a whole (rather than just the area most negatively affected) would mirror this split between the advantages and disadvantages of Heathrow, and as such, the council's policy framework is probably an accurate representation of the conflicting views held by our residents.

At this time the proposals are being worked up in order that the commission can make a viable decision on their validity. Depending on that outcome, the county will then be engaging in much more detail in the areas you suggest, however at the current point in time these are proposals being put forward by promoters to a commission considering them in the context of their own appraisal framework – not against any criteria that the County Council has set out.

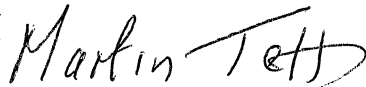


INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



The council has made its representations via SASIG (and, taking your point about the availability of this published response, I have asked officers to chase SASIG to ensure this is on their website and I believe these have now been published), but of course I would also encourage residents and local County Councillors to make their own representations as they see fit in order to ensure their views and those of their residents are fully taken into account.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Tett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underlining the name.

Cllr Martin Tett
Leader

c.c. Mrs Lesley Clarke - Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment
Mrs Ruth Vigor-Hedderly - Cabinet Member for Transportation
Rt Hon Dominic Grieve MP