

Hitchin Forum Summary of its original Statement of Case to be considered as an interested party.

Hitchin Forum opposes the granting of the DCO because;-

- Further expansion will impact Hitchin residents due to increased aircraft noise, poorer air quality and degradation of the amenity value of nearby countryside.
- The proposal is unsustainable because it is based on demand for cheap flights, not need. It impacts residents' well-being and the natural environment.
- Green Controlled Growth will be ineffective and prioritises growth. It will permit harmful impacts to continue after limits have been breached – a fact admitted with respect to noise in para 2.3.9 of document *7.07 GREEN CONTROLLED GROWTH FRAMEWORK EXPLANATORY NOTE*.
- LR reserves the right to ignore any remedial action recommended by the ESG.
- The ESG is too tightly controlled by LR and heavily loaded with aviation insiders. Its remit is limited by a requirement to allow the growth permitted by the DCO.
- LR has a history of seeking to limit consultation and to ignore legitimate stakeholder concerns, for instance in its handling of the Noise Envelope design process.