



Meeting note

Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	30 January 2020
Meeting with	Heathrow Community Engagement Board (HCEB)
Venue	Planning Inspectorate offices, Bristol
Meeting objectives	Update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

The Inspectorate confirmed that the note of the previous meeting with HCEB had been published on the National Infrastructure Planning website. HCEB highlighted how useful published meeting notes could be to assist affected communities and stated it would look into providing links to the Inspectorate's meeting notes and Advice Notes on its own website.

HCEB discussed Heathrow Airport Limited's January 2020 announcement regarding its intention to (i) carry out a second round of statutory consultation in April 2020 and (ii) delay the submission of its application until Q4 2020.

HCEB explained that following its transition in 2018 from the Heathrow Area Consultative Committee it had two functions: a community engagement board focused on the development of Heathrow Airport Limited's (HAL) proposals for expansion; and an airport consultative committee to scrutinise HAL's day-to-day operations. HCEB noted that in March 2020 it would be holding its first quarterly Independent Forum: a public meeting providing open and transparent monitoring and challenge of HAL's day-to-day operations and plans for the future¹. HCEB has been working to understand how this duality of function would be appropriately expressed when it was engaging with an examination of an application by HAL.

HCEB stated that it had been approached by HAL to agree a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG); an early draft of which had been provided to HCEB in January 2020.

¹ <https://www.hceb.org.uk/meetings/2020/3/18/hceb-independent-forum-2020-q1>

HCEB understood that HAL was aiming to finalise its suite of SoCGs by August 2020, but on the basis of the January 2020 draft, in HCEB's opinion the proposed timeline would be challenging. HCEB noted that it seemed early for applicants to start to prepare draft SoCGs in the PA2008 process. The Inspectorate stated that it always advised applicants to engage with parties on SoCGs as early as possible in the pre-application stage. The Inspectorate suggested that HCEB seeks clarification from HAL on its intended structure and timetable for the final SoCG.

The discussion noted other documents which HAL would be providing as part of any application, in particularly the Consultation Report. The Inspectorate noted that on some occasions an applicant had chosen to share a version of the Consultation Report with relevant authorities to inform an Adequacy of Consultation Representation in a timely manner.

HCEB set out that it planned to hold two community training events to introduce and explain the PA2008 process and to provide advice about how and when communities can engage most effectively in the process. The Inspectorate reiterated its offer to support, where it could, HCEB in respect of its preparation of training materials.

HCEB referred to paragraphs 5.258 and 5.259 of the Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS)² which describe its expected role in the delivery of expansion at Heathrow Airport. The ANPS requires HAL to have engaged constructively with HCEB throughout the planning process. The Inspectorate advised HCEB to open a dialogue with HAL in respect of how and when evidence in respect of this test should be presented to the Secretary of State.

HCEB explained that initially the ANPS was considered as only applying to one applicant (HAL), but Heathrow West Limited (HWL) was looking to utilise HCEB in respect of the Heathrow West scheme. HCEB referred to the emerging application for Heathrow West and queried whether the Applicant, HWL, had engaged with the Inspectorate. The Inspectorate confirmed that it had held pre-application meetings with HWL, the notes of which were available on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

HCEB queried if the delay to HAL's programme could mean that HWL would submit its application first. The Inspectorate explained that on its current understanding it was likely that HWL would adjust its programme to maintain submission of its application three months after HAL's submission.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/airports-national-policy-statement>