

**Outside body: Heathrow Strategic Planning Group
Councillor: Linda Gillham**

Earlier this year the HSPG secretariat released this newsletter, and it seems appropriate to present the key elements as part of my report from the “outside bodies” perspective.

HSPG is a collaborative success story between a range of local authorities and local enterprise partnerships representing the community of businesses and residents that neighbour the airport, and the operator of the airport, Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL).

With airport expansion plan ‘paused’ following the post-covid lockdowns and economic downturn, HSPG is acting as a unifying voice at a critical time for the area - amplifying our many shared objectives around a need for economic renewal and genuinely sustainable development across the airport and sub-region to meet challenging targets towards achieving net-zero carbon.

HSPG Update

The Secretariat is now formulating the outputs into a Workplan and budgeting for agreement by members. Key areas include:

- **Exploring sub-regional decarbonisation projects**, and particularly the delivery of our successful bid to the Innovate UK Net Zero Pioneer Places Fund Phase 1 to scope out removing non-technical barriers to reducing carbon emissions. Our bid focuses on energy planning and its role in the spatial planning process; developing a local carbon offsets market to secure additional finance for local projects and; improving provision and integration of sustainable transport. We have a three month sprint ‘discovery’ phase kicking off in April which we’ll be using to develop a more expansive bid for Phase 2 of this programme, which could secure up to a potential £8mn to develop these concepts further.
- Working collaboratively to build consensus around the proposition for **Southern Rail Access to the airport**. This would be a key tool to improving the sustainability of the airport, reducing transport-related emissions and delivering opportunities for regeneration.

Appendix B – Feedback from Councillors on outside bodies

- Continuing to engage in the **modernisation of UK and Heathrow airspace** and operations by engaging in Airspace Change Proposals and the development of the next **Heathrow Noise Action Plan**.
- Continue to prepare a refresh for the Joint Strategic Planning Framework, particularly looking at **employment land demand** and moves towards the decarbonisation of the airport and sub-region. This will be in light of a new emerging (two runway) Airport Masterplan, the long-term post-pandemic implications and any imminent changes in the English planning system and potentially UK aviation policy.

We will also be reviewing our governance processes through a refresh of our Accord, and establishing a strong partnership with the newly formed Council for Independent Scrutiny for Heathrow Airport

I have attended all meetings of the HSPG in the last year. These have been online.

We should be proud of the work Dr. Marcel Steward has been doing from an officer perspective to both win a successful bid and press ahead with the decarbonisation project. As Lead Borough on this project Tom Gracey released a press release on the 20th February 2023.

Although this covers a larger area than represented by RBC it is an important forum to work with neighbours and other influential bodies to achieve benefits for our residents.