



## CABINET MEMBER

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Lord Ahmad  
Department for Transport,  
Great Minster House,  
33 Horseferry Road,  
London, SW1P 4DR

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear Lord Ahmad,

### **Heathrow Northwest Runway - Runway Consultation – Community Engagement in Surrey Heath**

I am writing to you to express my serious concerns that residents in Surrey Heath are not being given a proper opportunity to have their views heard and understood as part of the consultation on airport expansion. In particular they are not being sent leaflets informing them of the consultation and are not to be given the opportunity to attend a public event in the borough with Department for Transport officials.

In discussions between my officers and your stakeholder engagement team, we were not informed that the rationale for the location of events has been determined by an indicative 54 decibel noise contour based on indicative flightpaths and that only the boroughs of Runnymede and Spelthorne meet those criteria.

Instead, on a number of occasions, my officers advised that four Surrey boroughs are affected by the proposals for a northwest runway – Runnymede, Spelthorne, Elmbridge and Surrey Heath – based on our knowledge of the area including those communities adversely affected by the 2014 flightpath trials conducted by Heathrow Airport.

We provided your stakeholder engagement team with details of the libraries in all four boroughs and there was no indication that Surrey Heath would not be included in any leaflet and poster distribution. We only became aware that the borough had been excluded when we were advised of the leaflet delivery schedule the day after the consultation was launched.

I have to say that this is simply not acceptable.

The final flightpaths associated with an expanded airport and any possible respite measures are not yet known. Many Surrey Heath residents could be affected by the proposals in the Airports National Policy Statement . Yet under the current proposals they will not even be made aware of the consultation.

My officers have already requested a public session be held in Camberley during the consultation period. I would strongly reiterate that request. Residents in Surrey Heath who feel they already suffer or could suffer from aircraft noise from current and future Heathrow flightpaths should be consulted directly. In my view that means a public meeting and the distribution of leaflets to libraries, council offices and other suitable places in the borough as soon as possible.

Furthermore, I am aware that Elmbridge residents have received leaflets but there is no public session planned for the borough itself. I believe that a public session also needs to be scheduled in Elmbridge to ensure that the consultation process is full, fair and accessible to all potentially affected communities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Goodman', enclosed within a horizontal oval shape.

Cllr Mike Goodman  
Cabinet Member Environment and Planning

Cc Michael Gove MP  
Dominic Raab MP  
Philip Hammond MP  
Cllr Moira Gibson  
Cllr Stuart Selleck  
Sir Jeremy Sullivan