

## WE'RE BACKING HEATHROW TO THRIVE WITHOUT A 3<sup>RD</sup> RUNWAY

The evidence is clear. Heathrow does not need a third runway in order to survive. Heathrow will continue to be one of the world's busiest airports even if the controversial new runway is not built.

**It flies in the face of reality to suggest Heathrow will close if it does not expand.**

People will continue to want to come to London in very large numbers. At present more air passengers terminate in London than in any other city in the world.

London is a magnet for people from all over the world. They are attracted by everything it has to offer; from its thriving economy to its famous tourist attractions. Over the coming decades even more people will want to come, particularly from newly



**Even a second Gatwick runway would have a 'negligible' impact on jobs at Heathrow**



**London is a magnet for people from across the world**

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prosperous countries like China, India and Brazil. It flies in the face of reality to suggest Heathrow will close if it does not expand. There will always be a market for Heathrow. In fact, a recent report found Heathrow would continue to boom even if a second runway was built at Gatwick. The research, commissioned by the London boroughs of Hounslow, Ealing and Slough Borough Council from Parsons Brinkerhof and Berkeley Hanover Consulting, found that a second Gatwick runway would have a 'negligible' impact on jobs at Heathrow.

### **BORIS ISLAND** **the only threat to Heathrow**

Heathrow would close down if an Estuary Airport was built. There is not the market to support Heathrow and a 4-runway Estuary Airport. The Mayor has big plans to redevelop the Heathrow site. And they might be successful. But it is a big risk as 76,000 people are directly employed by Heathrow, with another 100,000+ jobs indirectly dependent on the airport. **There are arguments for and against an Estuary Airport. This is not the place to recite them. The only point we want to make here is that there are no other threats to the future of Heathrow.**

### **BEWARE FALSE PROFITS!**

Heathrow Airport has a clear financial interest in promoting a third runway. Along with Back Heathrow, the lobby group it funds, it may be tempted to claim it is a third runway or die! Not true! **Beware false prophets!**



# 72%

## say NO to a 3<sup>rd</sup> runway

**The message couldn't be clearer.** In borough-wide referenda carried out in Hillingdon and Richmond last year 72% of people opposed a third runway. A Hounslow poll got a similar result. There have been subsequent (telephone) polls commissioned by Heathrow which suggest there may be more support for a third runway than the boroughs found but the evidence from MPs surgeries continues to suggest there is still widespread opposition.

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The issue attracted thousands to massive opposition rallies before the 2010 election

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Runway: a General Election issue

All the political parties are expecting a third runway will again feature at the General Election. Labour went into the 2010 Election backing a new runway. The Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats were opposed. One of the Coalition Government's first acts was to announce that it would not back any new runways in London and the South East during this Parliament. In 2012 it set up the Airports Commission, under Sir Howard Davies, to consider whether any more runways would be required and, if so, where they should be. In its Interim Report last December the Commission argued one new runway would be required by 2026. It shortlisted Gatwick and Heathrow as possible options. The Commission will decide later this summer whether to add an Estuary Airport to those options. The Commission is required to produce its final report in Summer 2015, shortly after the next General Election. It seems likely that both Labour and the Conservatives will not commit before the Election, arguing they will wait to see the Airports Commission report before making any final decision. The Liberal Democrats are expected to maintain their opposition to a third runway. UKIP and the Greens are firmly opposed. However, given the impact a third runway would have in London and the South East, it would be a big surprise if it was not a big issue in the key constituencies.

**OUR NEXT BRIEFING: CAN MONEY AND JOBS COMPENSATE FOR THE PROBLEMS OF A THIRD RUNWAY?**

This Briefing has been published by HACAN, the long-standing organisation which speaks for many residents under the Heathrow flight paths. We are an independent body, largely funded by our members. It is the first in a series of short briefings we will be releasing to help inform the debate. We can be contacted at [info@hacan.org.uk](mailto:info@hacan.org.uk); or by phone 0207 737 6641. You can check out our website [www.hacan.org.uk](http://www.hacan.org.uk) September 2014