

Does London really need a new runway?

AEF and Airportwatch party conference handout: background and references

September 2015

A decision on runways has yet to be taken.

Given the scale of the environmental and social costs, and questionable economic benefits, can a new runway be justified?

Did you know that 1 in 3 people are annoyed by aircraft noise in the UK?

Up and down the UK communities are increasingly annoyed by aircraft noise, while opposition to flightpath trials has shown the problem is spreading further away from airports.

Steps should be taken to tackle noise where it exceeds levels recommended by the World Health Organisation, and changes to existing flightpaths should be minimised.

Explanation, comment and references from AEF:

- Government noise attitudes survey: people increasingly disturbed by aircraft noise (January 2015) <http://www.aef.org.uk/2015/01/26/government-noise-attitudes-survey-people-increasingly-disturbed-by-aircraft-noise/>
- Aircraft noise more annoying now than in the past (November 2009) <http://www.aef.org.uk/2009/11/13/aircraft-noise-more-annoying-now-than-in-the-past/>
- Event review: flights paths: where next? (December 2014) <http://www.aef.org.uk/2014/12/09/event-review-flights-paths-where-next/>
- New WHO night noise study (October 2009) <http://www.aef.org.uk/2009/10/21/new-who-night-noise-study/>

Explanation, comment and references from Airportwatch:

- Gatwick, Heathrow and London City Airport campaigns come together to oppose airspace change (June 2015) <http://www.airportwatch.org.uk/2015/06/gatwick-heathrow-and-london-city-airport-campaigns-come-together-to-oppose-airspace-change/>
- Aircraft noise and a new runway short version (July 2015) <http://www.airportwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/AirportWatch-Noise-Briefing-June-2015-Short.pdf>
- Aircraft noise and a new runway longer version with references (July 2015) <http://www.airportwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/AirportWatch-Noise-Briefing-June-2015-Longer.pdf>

Did you know that living near an airport can damage your health?

Noise exposure increases the risk of sleep disturbance, heart disease and delays in children's learning, while health-based legal air quality limits are persistently breached in the Heathrow area.

No airport expansion should be permitted where public health would be adversely impacted.

Explanation, comment and references from AEF:

- Night noise from aircraft is damaging productivity and can cost lives, suggests CAA research (January 2013) <http://www.aef.org.uk/2013/01/24/night-noise-from-aircraft-is-damaging-productivity-and-can-cost-lives-suggests-caa-research/>
- Aircraft noise linked to higher rates of heart disease and stroke near Heathrow (October 2013) <http://www.aef.org.uk/2013/10/11/aircraft-noise-linked-to-higher-rates-of-heart-disease-and-stroke-near-heathrow/>
- Rule out expansion options on air quality grounds: our response to the Airports Commission (May 2015) <http://www.aef.org.uk/2015/05/29/rule-out-expansion-options-on-air-quality-grounds-our-response-to-the-airports-commission/>
- Briefing: airport expansion and air pollution (December 2014) <http://www.aef.org.uk/2014/12/19/briefing-airport-expansion-and-air-pollution/>

Explanation, comment and references from Airportwatch:

- Air pollution and a new runway (July 2015) <http://www.airportwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/AirportWatch-Air-Pollution-Briefing.-June-2015.pdf>

Did you know that aviation CO2 is set to exceed climate targets even without a new runway?

Despite new technology, carbon trading, and biofuels, carbon emissions are predicted to overshoot the maximum level compatible with climate legislation and would be even higher with a new runway.

A clear plan for limiting aviation emissions in line with the Climate Change Act is essential before a decision on a new runway.

Explanation, comment and references from AEF:

- Infographic: Why airport expansion risks the UK's climate change commitments (March 2015) <http://www.aef.org.uk/2015/03/16/infographic-why-airport-expansion-risks-the-uks-climate-change-commitments/>
- All set for take off? Aviation emissions to soar under Airports Commission proposals ((June 2015))<http://www.aef.org.uk/uploads/All-set-for-take-off-AEF-report.pdf>
- The Airports Commission's final report: has it closed the carbon gap? (August 2015) <http://www.aef.org.uk/uploads/The-Airports-Commission%E2%80%99s-final-report-%E2%80%93-has-it-closed-the-carbon-gapFINAL.pdf>

Explanation, comment and references from Airportwatch:

- Carbon emissions and a new runway – short version (July 2015) <http://www.airportwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Climate-briefing.-June-2015-Short.pdf>
- Carbon emissions and a new runway – longer version with references (July 2015) <http://www.airportwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Climate-briefing.-June-2015-Long.pdf>

Did you know that business travel has fallen over the past 15 years?

Economic benefits associated with airport expansion are frequently overstated. UK business demand for flying has fallen since 2000, while overall demand is sustained by exemptions from both fuel tax and VAT.

Aviation tax breaks should be eliminated. There should be no new runway without a clear economic case that accounts for environmental and social costs.

Explanation, comment and references from AEF:

- The Airports Commission's economic fudge: How the economic case for expansion dissolves once climate change limits are accounted for (August 2015)
<http://www.aef.org.uk/uploads/Economic-impact-of-expansion-under-a-carbon-cap-FINAL.pdf>
- AEF comments on Treasury APD paper September 2015
<http://www.aef.org.uk/2015/09/18/resist-any-levelling-down-of-air-passenger-duty-aef-tells-treasury/>

Explanation, comment and references from Airportwatch:

- Aviation economics and a new runway – short version (July 2015)
<http://www.airportwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/AirportWatch-Economics-Briefing-24-9-2015.pdf>
- Aviation economics and a new runway – longer version with references (July 2015)
http://www.airportwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/AirportWatch_Economics_briefing_8.6.2015_with_references.pdf