



A Quod project sheet

Heathrow Airport Greater London

Role

Quod provided strategic planning and socio-economic advice to Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL) from 2011 in relation to the expansion of Heathrow Airport, the UK's only hub airport, including in relation to the proposals for a new third runway.

Quod was involved in helping Heathrow make its strategic case to government to secure support in the Airports NPS and subsequently in project development across a range workstreams relating to master planning, development mitigation, and assessing the likely transport, and socio-economic and employment impacts of the airport's expansion. Quod was closely involved in the production of material to support three separate large-scale public consultations.

A key aspect of Quod's work was championing a new concept for UK aviation, known as Environmentally Managed Growth. This framework set out a long-term monitoring and management regime to assure that the effects of Heathrow's long-term growth and operations permanently remain within acceptable environmental limits. Connected to this was Quod's leading role within a multidisciplinary team working on the development of a mitigation framework to guide the client's decision-making on mitigation, ultimately informing a package of mitigation measures that were to be put forward as part of the Development Consent Order.

Quod were also closely involved in the development of an innovative Surface Access Strategy, which had to balance rigorous policy requirements with the practicalities of uncertainty inherent in long term forecasts. Similar approaches were developed for airport phasing, the Code of Construction Practice and other key characteristics of growth, where flexibility was important.

Description

New runway and airport related development

Client

Heathrow Airport Limited

Planning Authority

London Borough of Hillingdon

Expertise

Planning	✓
CIL	
Environmental Planning	
Development Economics	
Socio-economic	✓
Infrastructure	✓
Strategic Land Promotion	
Regeneration	
CPO	

Project Type

Infrastructure	✓
Major Mixed Use	
Residential	
Retail & Commercial	
Industrial, Logistics and Warehousing	



Quod's role as planning advisor included working on the masterplan scheme development process. Quod advised Heathrow on the development and implementation of an optioneering approach that would withstand scrutiny at examination and be able to support the highly sensitive decisions which are inherent in a scheme of such scale and significance.

In addition to the scheme masterplan, Quod were heavily involved in the development of an off-airport masterplan, including assessing the land use implications of the expansion proposals for a variety of existing and future commercial, logistical and industrial demands. This particularly involved the planning of employment generating land-uses to both serve and benefit from the airport's expansion.

In tandem with the planning workstream, Quod acted as lead consultant on the socio-economic and employment, and community workstreams. Quod worked with a multidisciplinary team to develop an innovative and world-class method of assessing Quality of Life in communities around the airport. This involved creating a set of indicators against which Heathrow's impact could be assessed and providing a framework for community investment that included, but also went far beyond, noise effects. Quod worked with Brunel University to rank and prioritise local issues. This work, while relevant to expansion, was part of Heathrow's long-term commitment to "making Heathrow a great place to live" under either a 2 or 3 runway scenario.

As part of the proposed package of mitigation and compensation measures, Quod advised on the detailed design of a Community Fund, including its eligibility and scope, in order to secure long-term benefits for the communities near the airport as well as those further afield.

The socio-economic assessment included evaluating the likely economic impacts in the local, regional and national areas, including: direct, indirect, and induced employment and supply chain effects; the effects on skills and training; and wider economic impacts. Our work also included formulating an Economic Development Framework, which sought to enhance the skills, employment, training, and education opportunities in the local area and maximise supply chain benefits, inward investment and tourism.

Quod was directly involved in the engagement with the Heathrow Strategic Planning Group (HSPG) – a group made up of the neighbouring local authorities – on these topics, including drafting a long term Joint Strategic Planning Framework.