



Greater Manchester  
All Party Parliamentary Group

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Chris Grayling MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Rd  
Westminster  
London  
SW1P 4DR

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018

Dear Secretary of State

As Members of Parliament from across Greater Manchester, we are writing to you to seek assurances ahead of the vote on the expansion of Heathrow Airport, due on Monday 25th June.

We support the principle of the third runway at Heathrow, on the basis that an expanded international hub airport will strengthen the UK's global connectivity over the coming decades. We welcome too the tough conditions on emissions and environmental protections. As such, we are minded to vote in support of the NPS on Monday.

At the same time, it is important that we receive firm assurances from the Government on its commitment to delivering an integrated transport plan for the Northern Powerhouse which brings together investment in rail, road and aviation infrastructure to enable us to work together to drive economic growth and rebalance our economy.

Indeed, Manchester Airport itself with its second runway, spare capacity, global reach and current £1 billion redevelopment is a national "golden asset", as you described, and should be at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse transport strategy and the UK's forthcoming aviation strategy. Over the coming decades, and in advance of the third runway at Heathrow, Manchester Airport has the potential for significant growth, capitalising on its position as the UK's second best connected airport.

While we agree that an expanded Heathrow will deliver benefits in a number of ways, the North will benefit most from improvements in direct global connectivity through Manchester Airport. For this reason, we would ask for your commitment to supporting the airport in fulfilling its potential, and to preparing an ambitious and detailed plan to achieve this that matches the Government's commitment to Heathrow expansion.

Likewise, there are a number of key upcoming decisions in relation to the Northern Powerhouse that need the Government to devote exactly the same focus and energy to the delivery of transport infrastructure for the North that it has to Heathrow expansion. These include the development of both Northern Powerhouse Rail and HS2, properly integrated with the North's global gateway at Manchester Airport. Together with major investment in intra-connectivity such as Metrolink as well as major road improvements, these projects have the potential to deliver huge connectivity benefits across the North, and achieve the economic agglomeration that is central to the Northern Powerhouse vision.

It is vital that any approval for Heathrow expansion does not impinge on the pipeline of the Northern Powerhouse projects by taking up capacity and Government focus. Equally, major national infrastructure projects bring opportunities for jobs and contracts to our region and we look forward to realising these opportunities.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to progress these further and look forward to hearing your assurances during the debate on Monday.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lucy Powell', written in a cursive style.

Lucy Powell MP, Chair, Greater Manchester APPG

Graham Brady MP

Ann Coffey MP

Sir David Crausby MP

Yvonne Forvargue MP

James Frith MP

Kate Green MP

Andrew Gwynne MP

Mike Kane MP

Afzal Khan MP

Ivan Lewis MP

Liz McInnes MP

Jim McMahon MP

Jo Platt MP

Yasmin Qureshi MP

Angela Rayner MP

Jonathan Reynolds MP

Mary Robinson MP

Jeff Smith MP

Graham Stringer MP

William Wragg MP