



Community Conversation

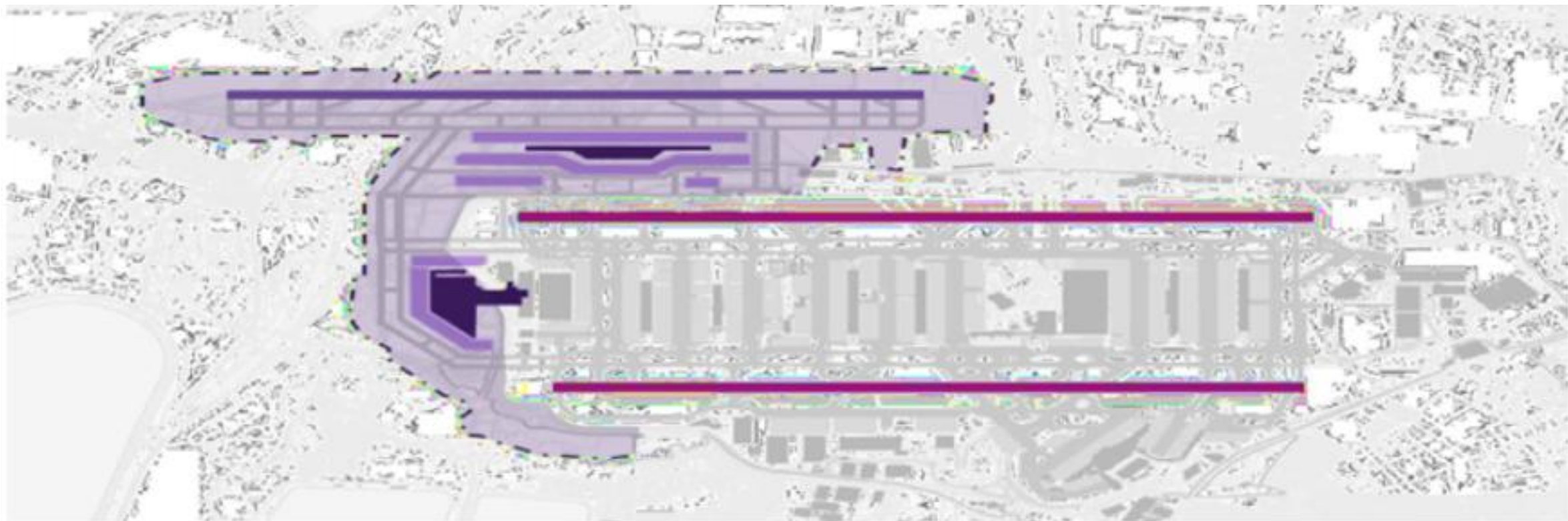
Heathrow Expansion: the proposals

What is being consulted on?

- The government has published its **Heathrow Expansion National Policy Statement (HENPS)**.
- This sets the national planning policy framework for decision-making on Heathrow expansion, including a third runway.
- If adopted, it would mean that the need for a third runway is treated as established, making it easier for Heathrow expansion to be approved.

Heathrow Airport Ltd's proposals

- The HENPS supports a North-West Runway at Heathrow, capable of supporting at least **260,000 additional air transport movements per year**.
- Building the runway would also require new terminal infrastructure, changes to roads and public transport access and other infrastructure.
- The proposals amount to adding a new airport onto Heathrow.



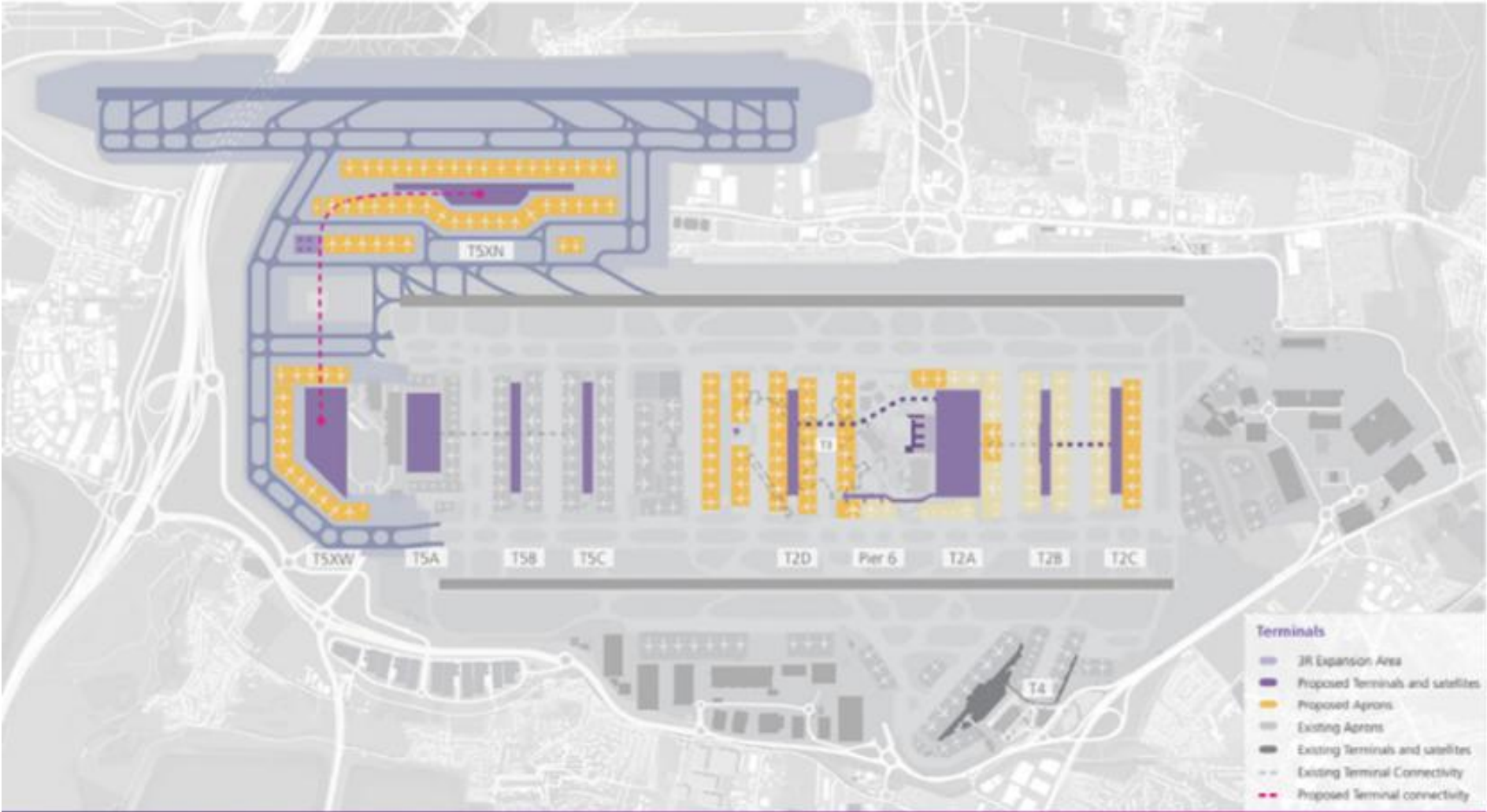


Figure 5 | Diagram of new terminal buildings

The justification for expansion

- The Government's case is that Heathrow is the UK's only hub airport, making it the right candidate for expansion to protect international connectivity, trade and freight.
- However, extra capacity has already been recently approved at Gatwick, Luton, Stansted and London City.

The “Four Tests”

- The Government says any expansion must pass tests on air quality, noise, climate change and economic growth.
- The HENPS provides more detail on how these tests would be assessed – drafted quite broadly and in favour of expansion.
- The tests do not require there to be no harm, just that it is mitigated, offset, or judged not to breach legal thresholds.

Economic case

- The promoter must show that **the scheme is expected to contribute to economic growth at national, regional and local levels.**
- The Government claim Heathrow expansion will support jobs, trade, tourism, productivity and connectivity.
- This case is contested when social and environmental costs are included – some Department for Transport (DfT) scenarios conclude negative benefits when these are factored in.
- The HENPS proposes designating expansion as Critical National Growth Infrastructure.

Our main concerns

- The HENPS gives too much weight to Heathrow expansion and not enough to local impacts – including harm to residents' health, environment and quality of life.
- **We would like to see a better, not bigger, Heathrow** and want the Government to strengthen noise protections, meaningfully ban night flights, go further with air quality tests and provide independent assessments of the environmental and economic case for expansion.

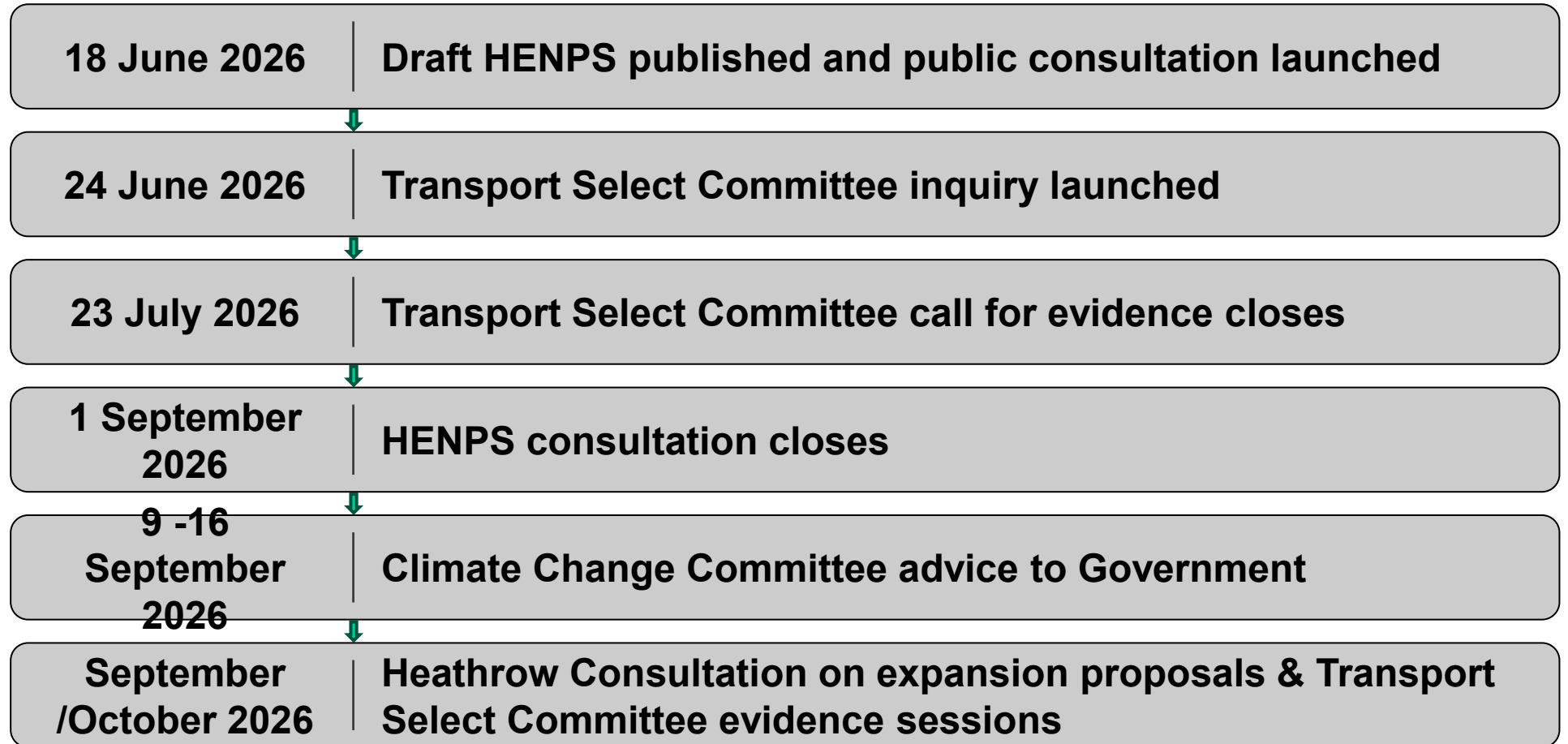
Consultation process and timeline

Paul Beckford, No Third Runway Coalition

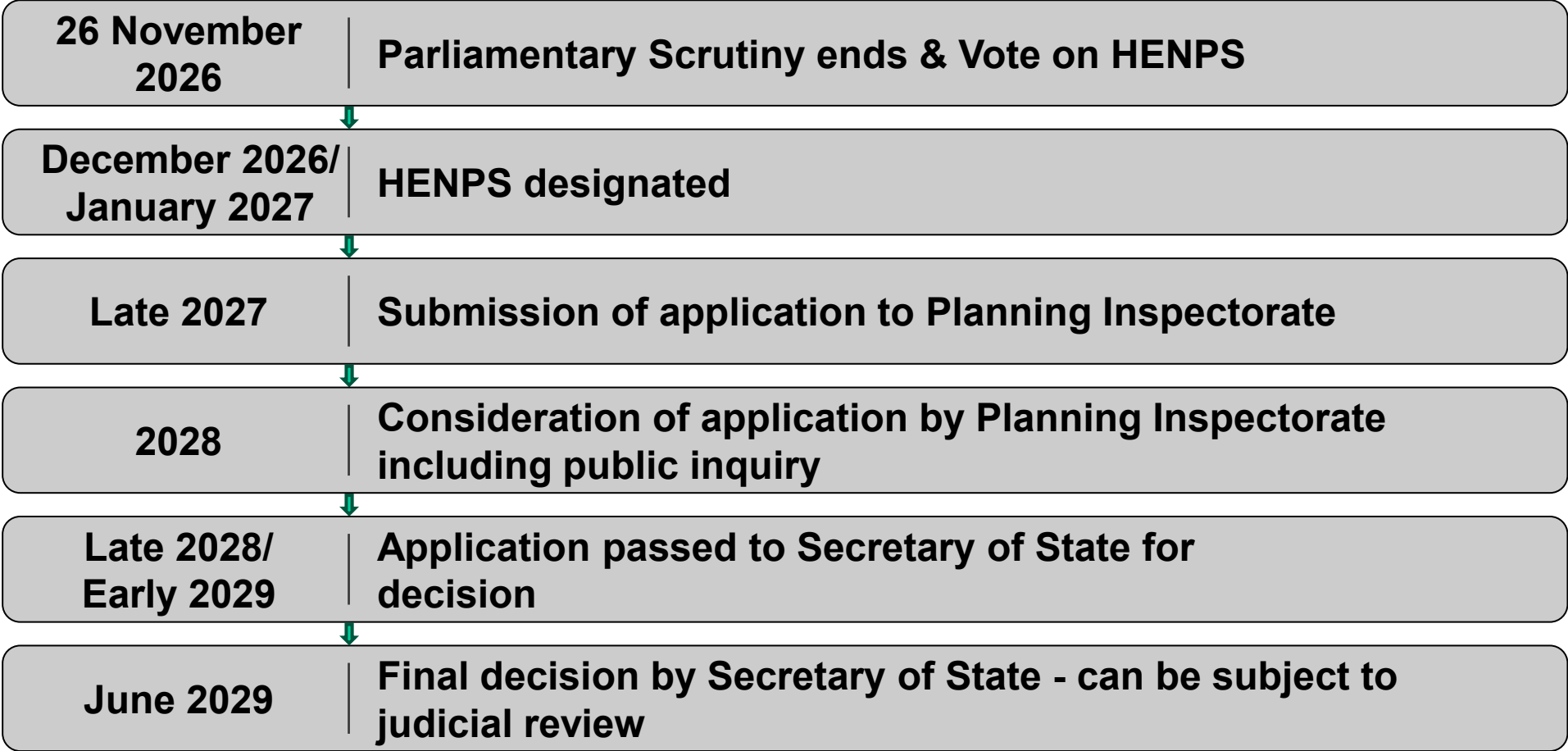
Process

1. Draft Heathrow Expansion National Policy Statement published and public consultation launched (18th June 2026)
2. HENPS consultation closes on 1st September.
3. Transport Select Committee launched inquiry into HENPS – deadline for submissions is 23rd July 2026.
4. Climate Change Committee to publish advice on HENPS to Secretary of State (9th - 16th September 2026).
5. Parliamentary scrutiny of HENPS to conclude by 26th November 2026. Government will then respond to Transport Select Committee report.
6. Final HENPS is subject to parliamentary vote.
7. Heathrow to launch their public consultation in September or October 2026. Intention is to submit application for Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate in late 2027.
8. Once DCO is submitted, the planning process is expected to take approximately 10 months including a public inquiry before final recommendation.
9. Then a 3-6 month window for judicial review before final approval by Secretary of State.

Timeline



Timeline



Development Consent Order process & timeline

The application process. The six steps

The Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, has **28 days** to decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination including whether the developer's consultation has been adequate.

You can send in your comments in writing. You can request to speak at a public hearing. The Inspectorate has **6 months** to carry out the examination.

There is the opportunity for legal challenge.

Pre-application

Acceptance

Pre-examination

Examination

Decision

Post-decision

Look out for information in local media and in public places near the location of the proposed project, such as your library. The developer will be developing their proposals and will consult widely.

You can now register as an interested party; you will be kept informed of progress and opportunities to put your case. Inspectors will hold a Preliminary Meeting and set the timetable for examination.

A recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State will be issued by the Inspectorate within **3 months**. The Secretary of State then has a further **3 months** to issue a decision on the proposal

Noise

The HENPS and flight noise

- The HENPS states that the scheme must **avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life from noise by limiting overall aircraft noise compared to 2024.**
- It also states that the scheme must provide adequate, predictable respite for communities, including runway alternation and a night-flight ban.
- Noise is one of the most important expansion issues in our Borough.
- Respite periods could also reduce compared with current arrangements if expansion is approved, with “airspace modernisation” making impacts uncertain.

Night flights

- The HENPS refers to a “night-flight ban” - in practice this is a 6.5 hour period with no scheduled flights.
- The key issue is whether the policy protects from sleep disturbance or early morning arrivals. Current runway alternation gives many communities predictable periods without flights overhead.
- The Council is concerned that Heathrow expansion could reduce the duration of those respite periods.

Discussion

- **Please share your thoughts, questions and comments on how Heathrow expansion will impact noise pollution in Richmond.**
 - How does aircraft noise affect you now?
 - Do the official noise readings match what you actually hear?
 - How important is predictable respite to you?
 - Would you accept reduced respite if Heathrow argued that aircraft are becoming quieter overall?

Air quality and climate change

Air quality and health

- The scheme must **not cause any new breaches of legal obligations on air quality or make existing breaches materially worse.**
- But existing national targets are less rigorous than World Health Organisation recommendations, which the Council has committed to in its Air Quality Strategy.

Surface access and transport

- Expansion would require major surface access planning, including public transport, roads, freight and airport worker travel.
- The draft HENPS expects Heathrow to pay for public transport improvements and to hit a target of 50% of journeys made to the airport being via public transport.
- Heathrow has in the past indicated that it expects the government to pay for these improvements.

Climate change

- The scheme must **not result in an increase in carbon emissions that are significant enough to have a material impact on the UK's legally binding carbon budgets**. This includes emissions from construction, surface access, airport operations and air travel.
- The Appraisal of Sustainability forecasts that an expanded Heathrow could generate substantial additional carbon emissions by 2095, even with technological improvements.
- We think that independent analysis is needed.

Discussion

- **Please share your thoughts, questions and comments on how Heathrow expansion will impact air quality in Richmond and affect local, national and global climate goals.**
 - Do you have concerns about air quality in your local area?
 - Are there particular times or places where pollution feels worse?
 - How important is climate change to your view of the proposed expansion?

Open Discussion