



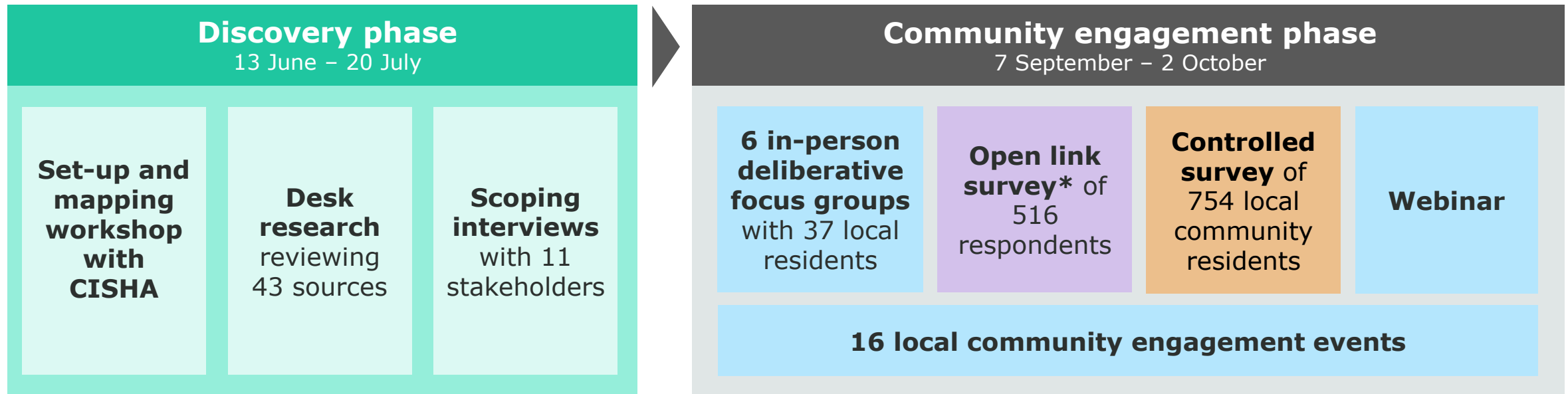
Sustainability Scrutiny Project: Community views on air quality around Heathrow Airport



Summary presentation

Methodology

We conducted a multi-staged research programme that scrutinised existing literature, gathered informed local community views on air quality, and produced a set of recommendations for Heathrow Airport and CISHA. This included:



More detail on these stages and sample can be found in the full report.

*The self-selecting nature of the open link survey also skews participation from those who are more interested in the topic and tend to have stronger views than the average resident.

Key findings

Key findings (1/2)

1.

Despite air quality registering as a low salience issue, many feel concerned about it when prompted - 59% of controlled survey and 68% of open link survey respondents feel very or fairly concerned about air quality in their local area. **Learning more about air quality leads to increased concern** about the impact of Heathrow on air quality locally and on the impact on human health, causing many newly **linking symptoms experienced by them or other local residents to air pollution.**

2.

While there is limited awareness of air quality monitoring and reporting (around 1 in 10 recall having used the Heathrow Airwatch website before), **the majority assume it is being done by Heathrow Airport and/or local government.** While the **Heathrow Airwatch** website is seen to offer a **comprehensive overview of local air quality**, residents feel it is **in need of modernising** to be more user-friendly to a lay person. Residents also feel **Heathrow Airport should further promote the existence of the website**, with a perceived lack of efforts in promoting the site generating a sense of distrust.

3.

While initially pleased with the prevalence of air quality monitors in the local area, questions are raised regarding the installation of current sites. Almost half of open link survey respondents (47%) feel there are insufficient monitoring sites in and around Heathrow Airport. On prompting, **residents call for additional monitors to be installed** - particularly below the flight paths, within the airport perimeter and in residential areas. Local residents also state an expectation that current and future monitors should track as many of the pollutants as possible, including UFPs.

Key findings (2/2)

4.

While initially satisfied by the air quality data available on Heathrow Airwatch, residents identify concerns on scrutinising the data. A lack of contextual data and underlying distrust of Heathrow Airport mean local residents tend to question the data on Heathrow Airwatch. Specifically, residents question the reports showing air pollution levels classified as 'low' (as this feels inconsistent with their lived realities), and a lack of clear information on the air quality bandings and on when data is collected. Despite this, there is **widespread appetite amongst local residents to learn more about air quality.**

5.

There is low awareness of what Heathrow Airport is doing to improve air quality and wider sustainability locally (4 in 5 have never heard of Heathrow's 2.0 Sustainability Strategy). While **Heathrow Airport's air quality targets are seen to be ambitious by most** on prompting, further **deliberation raises doubts and concerns regarding the achievability of the targets** due to a lack of awareness of them amongst residents, a reliance on a wider systems/infrastructure, and a view that they are placing too much responsibility on passengers and local residents.

6.

Further information about who is responsible for setting, funding and evaluating Heathrow Airport's air quality targets would alleviate some uncertainty around its commitments. Residents feel it is particularly important that the responsibility of overseeing Heathrow Airport is independent and has the ability to hold the airport to account.



Resident recommendations

Resident recommendations for CISHA and Heathrow Airport

- 01** **Building evidence on the impact of air pollution around Heathrow Airport on public health**
- 02** **Expanding the monitoring infrastructure around Heathrow Airport, including:**
 - Installing additional air quality monitors
 - Monitoring and reporting on UFPs
- 03** **Improving the way Heathrow Airport displays air quality data and information, including:**
 - Making Heathrow Airwatch more user friendly
 - Proactively communicating and engaging with local residents on air quality
 - Using sources and channels that local residents currently engage with
- 04** **Introducing independent, expert oversight over Heathrow Airport's air quality targets**
- 05** **Review the air quality targets and expectations for airlines and other airport suppliers**



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