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Surrey County Council
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Emailed to: GatwickAirport@planniginspectorate.gov.uk

Your Ref: TR020005

20th September 2023

Dear Sir,

Local Authority Issues Tracker – Surrey County Council response

Following the ExA Section 89 letter to GAL and the Local Authorities on 8 September 2023, I attach a copy of the Issues Tracker Omissions Table recently sent through to Gatwick Airport Limited by Surrey County Council.

It is the council's view that the Issues Tracker should be considered a living document and further iterations should be produced in tandem with revised drafts of the Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) and Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statements (PADSS).

Statements of Common Ground with GAL

A background to the engagement with GAL during the pre-application phase was given in the Joint Local Authority Adequacy of Consultation Representation (20 July 2023). This included the discussions to date on Statements of Common Ground (paras 7.47 – 7.52), that have focused on the structure, scope of issues to be agreed (or not) and the process for the preparation of the documents, rather than any detailed agreement (or not) on the issues of concern due to the lack of information available to the Authorities. Furthermore, the comments made on the structure of the documents (within the required timeframes set by the applicant) have not been discussed through the feedback meetings held, and there has been a lack of meaningful engagement or willingness on the Applicant's part to do so.

The capacity of Surrey County Council to manage the current DCO workload is such that whilst it will be able to engage on agreeing a revised Issues Tracker picking up these omissions with GAL prior to their deadline on 29 October 2023, it will need to focus its resources on reviewing the DCO documentation and finalising its Relevant Representation and initial draft of its PADSS. It was therefore suggested to the Applicant that the most effective use of resources for all parties was to further engage on SoCG drafting once GAL have been able to review the comments already made on the tranches of SOCGs along with taking into account the Relevant Representations/PADSS produced and any new issues that may have been identified.

Yours sincerely



Caroline Smith – Planning Group Manager