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BY ONLINE SUBMISSION ONLY

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Your Reference:
TR010032

KCC Interested Party
Reference Number:
20044780

Date: 6th February 2024

Dear Mr Gleeson,

RE: Application by Gatwick Airport Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Project - Kent County Council's Submission to Procedural Deadline A

As outlined within the Draft Examination Timetable (Annex D of the Rule 6 letter (PD-009)), this letter is Kent County Council's (KCC) Procedural Deadline A submission which provides the following:

- Written submissions on Examination procedure, including any submissions about the draft Examination timetable.
- Requests to be heard orally at the Preliminary Meeting (PM), including which agenda items you wish to speak on, and why your points need to be made orally rather than in writing.
- Requests by IPs to participate in the Issue Specific Hearings between 29th February and 6th March 2024.

Written submissions on Examination procedure, including any submissions about the draft Examination timetable.

As a neighbouring authority, KCC will endeavour to do its best to respond to the Examination within the means of our current resources. However, following recent experience with the Lower Thames Crossing Examination, we would like to take this opportunity to raise several comments in relation to the Examination procedure and draft Examination timetable.

Firstly, we recognise the importance of consulting statutory bodies and local communities on proposed changes to the application. However, additional consultations held throughout the



Examination place further burden on local authorities to review the proposed changes and provide a meaningful response within the limited timeframes. Local authority resources are already stretched and so we would fully encourage the Applicant and the Examining Authority (ExA) to reduce as much as possible the need to undertake additional consultations throughout the Examination.

Secondly, we welcome the agendas for the first round of Issue Specific Hearings (EV2-001) being published with four weeks' notice. Whilst we appreciate this amount of advanced notice may not always be achievable, we would ask for the agendas to be published with as much notice as possible. This will ensure local authorities can appropriately prepare resources and ensure officers are available to attend Issue Specific Hearings where necessary. Furthermore, as the timing of the Examination means some of the deadlines and hearing dates fall over the school holiday periods, we would welcome advanced notice of the exact dates and topics to be discussed at each Issue Specific Hearing. This will assist local authorities in planning resources to ensure there is representation at relevant hearings throughout the school holiday periods.

Thirdly, we would like to politely request for the ExA to consider the issue of local authority officer availability when seeking responses to written questions and comments. It would be welcomed if the ExA could be mindful of the number of questions being issued at once, to each authority, and ensure that the questions are as clear as possible.

Finally, whilst at this stage it is difficult to determine if KCC is likely to be party to any legal agreements with the Applicant, we support the Examination timetable containing regular updates on the progress of any relevant legal agreements. This approach should encourage the Applicant and local authorities to commence early negotiations on any legal agreements and minimise the chance of dispute in the latter stages of the Examination.

Hard to Reach Groups and Hearing Venues

KCC would also request for the ExA to ensure hard to reach groups have ample opportunity to respond and participate in the Examination. Furthermore, careful consideration needs to be given to the accessibility of venues to ensure no Interested Party is prohibited from participating in the Examination.

Requests to be heard orally at the Preliminary Meeting (PM), including which agenda items you wish to speak on, and why your points need to be made orally rather than in writing.

KCC would like to take this opportunity to confirm our intention to attend the Preliminary Meeting in person on Tuesday 27th February 2024. This request has also been submitted via the Online Event Participation Form. We have submitted our comments in writing as part of this submission and at this point do not wish to make any further comments orally at the meeting. However, we would like to attend in person should there be anything raised by the Applicant or other Interested Parties that we may wish to comment on.



Requests by IPs to participate in the Issue Specific Hearings between 29th February and 6th March 2024.

KCC has reviewed the detailed agendas for the first round of upcoming Issue Specific Hearings and would like to register our participation in the following events:

- Issue Specific Hearing 1: The Case for the Proposed Development (ISH1)
- Issue Specific Hearing 2: Control Documents/the Development Consent Order (ISH2)
- Issue Specific Hearing 3: Socio-economics (including Health and Wellbeing) (ISH3)
- Issue Specific Hearing 4: Surface Transport (ISH4)
- Issue Specific Hearing 5: Aviation Noise (ISH5)

Yours sincerely,

Simon Jones

Corporate Director – Growth, Environment and Transport