

PINS Case Team
Submitted via PINS project webpage

Date 6 February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Unique reference number: 20044739

Re: Horsham District Council's written submission in relation to Procedural Deadline A of the application by Gatwick Airport Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Gatwick Northern Runway Project

Thank you for your letter dated 5 January 2024 relating to the Preliminary Meeting and the indicative Examination timetable for the Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Project DCO application. Horsham District Council ("the Council") has read and noted the contents of this letter, and the subsequent agendas for the Issue Specific Hearings ("ISH") published on 30 February 2024. We do not intend to register to speak at the Preliminary Meeting, instead providing comments in the form of this written submission.

Accompanied Site Inspection ("ASI")

The Council notes that the Examining Authority ("ExA") intends to carry out an ASI on Thursday 7 March, and that Interested Parties ("IPs") are invited to propose site locations for further ASIs which could take place w/c 29 April 2024. The Council would like to proposed the following site location:

Site location: Bartholemew Way, North Horsham (what3words: ended.learns.presumes)

Issues to be observed: Acoustic character of the area

Access: Site is on public highway

Reason for suggesting location: Residential area within Horsham town due to be newly overflowed on a regular basis

The ExA are no doubt aware that conditions on the day of the site inspection may affect the effectiveness of any ASIs in demonstrating the effects of overflight. Summer flight schedules are not yet published and aircraft noise varies by the hour. Similarly, wind direction and flight paths being used by the airport on the day mean it is difficult to suggest locations which will be representative of aircraft noise on the day of a future ASI. If the ExA considers it appropriate the Council will be more than happy to assist with future locations to further demonstrate the actual perceived impacts of aircraft noise on the ground.

Publication of detailed agendas

As mentioned, it has been noted that the ExA have already published agendas for the Open Floor Hearings ("OFH") and ISHs due to take place between Wednesday 28 February and Wednesday 6 March and the Council is grateful for early sight of the detail of these hearings.

We would like to take this opportunity to seek further clarity on the extent to which attendees, specifically local authorities, are likely to be required to contribute to these hearings, given that the Local Impact Reports (“LIR”) will not have been finalised, and that while it has been suggested that the hearings are primarily intended for the Applicant to provide detail and clarity, there are agenda items where it is suggested that Councils and IPs more generally may be expected to contribute. Given this, and the fact that the agendas that have been published in advance of the Surface Transport and Aviation Noise hearings (ISH4 and ISH5 respectively) are relatively high level, the Council considers that more detailed sub-agendas would be helpful in allowing local authorities and other IPs to adequately prepare for these ISHs.


Proposed Project Changes

As the ExA will be aware, the Applicant has recently carried out non-statutory consultation on a number of proposed alterations to the Project as currently submitted. The Council responded to this consultation on 19 January 2024 raising a number of concerns about the potential impacts, the lack of a sufficiently broad assessment of impacts by the Applicant and the general lack of information provided as part of the consultation. The Council notes that the proposed changes are the subject of Item 6 on the agenda for the Preliminary Meetings and request that, where possible, further clarity is sought from the Applicant in relation to when these changes are likely to be formally submitted, and what additional information is expected to accompany this change application.

Volume of Information and Rampion 2 DCO Examination

The Council would like to take this opportunity to make a more general point about the volume of information associated with the Project and the application, the considerable resource required of Horsham District Council, other local authorities and Interested Parties, in reviewing and meaningfully engaging with this substantial volume of technical information. This is particularly onerous when there has been a significant level of information not shared with the Council in advance of the submission of the application.

Horsham District Council is also involved in the Rampion 2 Offshore Windfarm examination which is running concurrently with the Gatwick NRP application and the engagement by the PINS Case Team in advance of the issuing of the Rule 6 letter on timetabling and resourcing issues has been appreciated.

The Council looks forward to engaging positively and fully with the examination process in the coming months. If you require any clarification on the issues raised above please contact Julia Hayes (Senior Planning Officer) by email in the first instance on @horsham.gov.uk.

Kind regards,


Catherine Howe
Head of Strategic Planning

