



Preliminary Meeting Note

Application: Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Project

Reference: TR020005

Time and date: Tuesday 27 February 2024

Venue: Sandman Signature London Gatwick Hotel, 18-23 Tinsley Lane South,
Three Bridges, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 8XH

This meeting note is not a full transcript of the Preliminary Meeting. It is a summary of the key points discussed. A video recording of the event is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed via the following link: [Recording of the Preliminary Meeting](#).

1. Welcome and introduction

Kevin Gleeson welcomed those present and introduced himself as the Lead Panel Member for the Examining Authority (ExA). Philip Brewer, Helen Cassini, Jonathan Hockley and Neil Humphrey then introduced themselves as the other members of the ExA who had been appointed by the Secretary of State to examine the Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Project application.

The ExA explained that it would be examining the application made by Gatwick Airport Limited (the Applicant) before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, should be made.

The ExA introduced George Harrold as Case Manager for the project, supported by Jennifer Savage, Steven Parker and Elliott Booth. The ExA explained that the contact details for the Case Team could be found at the top of any letter received from the Planning Inspectorate and on the [project webpage](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

The ExA highlighted that the agenda for this meeting could be found in [Annex B](#) of the [Rule 6 Letter](#) dated 5 January 2024.

The ExA highlighted that recordings and transcripts would be published for the meeting and explained that tweets, blogs and other similar communications would not be accepted as evidence in the examination of the application.

The ExA explained the Planning Inspectorate's duties under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Further info relating to the GDPR can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's [Privacy Notice](#).

The ExA explained that the Preliminary Meeting (PM) would focus only on matters of Examination procedure. The ExA advised that questions, discussions and representations about the merits of the application and the Proposed Development were for the Examination itself, which would commence after the PM had closed.

2. Examination process

The ExA briefly explained the examination process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) stressing that the Examination is primarily a written process. The ExA clarified the purpose of:

- The Preliminary Meeting;
- Issue Specific Hearings;
- Compulsory Acquisition Hearings; and
- Open Floor Hearings.

Further information about the Examination can be found in our [Advice Note 8.4](#) while information relating to hearings and site inspections can be found in [Advice Note 8.5](#).

The ExA explained how the Examination would be conducted and what parties could expect from the ExA.

3. Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

The ExA explained the purpose of the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (section 88 of the PA2008), which can be found in [Annex C](#) of the Rule 6 Letter and asked for any observations on them.

Ben Benatt, Claudia Fisher, and Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign raised concerns about the topic of climate change not being the subject of the initial Issue Specific Hearings. The ExA explained that further Hearings would be held during the six-month Examination.

4. Procedural Decisions

The ExA clarified the Procedural Decisions made under section 89(3) of the PA2008 and asked for any observations. Procedural Decisions can be found in [Annex F](#) of the Rule 6 Letter.

Michael Bedford KC on behalf of the Legal Partnership Authorities, Marathon Asset Management MCAP Global Finance (UK) LLP (MAM), and Communities Against Gatwick Noise and Emissions (CAGNE) raised a number of points regarding possible future site inspection locations.

The Applicant commented that it would prepare a draft itinerary for a possible second ASI by Deadline 1 and would consider suggestions from Interested Parties submitted at Procedural Deadline A. The Applicant also addressed the suggestion of a potential Statement of Common Ground with MAM and would consider whether this was appropriate.

5. Examination Timetable

The ExA noted requests, already received in writing, to amend the draft Examination Timetable contained in [Annex D](#) of Rule 6 Letter and also heard further suggestions from the parties in attendance.

Michael Bedford KC on behalf of the Legal Partnership Authorities, Mole Valley District Council, CAGNE, Cllr Jonathan Essex, Ben Benatt, Claudia Fisher and MAM raised various matters. Collectively these referenced the interaction with the Rampion 2 Examination, the effect of local elections on the timetable, the length of the Examination, requests for further Issue Specific Hearings on specific topics and Open Floor Hearings, and the timing of Hearings and publication of agendas. All comments received were duly noted by the ExA and considerations will be reflected in the Rule 8 Letter.

6. Applicant's change request

The ExA confirmed that the Applicant had submitted an application to make changes to its original Development Consent Order application. The Applicant provided an overview of the changes and its consultation process.

CAGNE, Claudia Fisher, Cllr Jonathan Essex, and Michael Bedford KC on behalf of the Legal Partnership Authorities commented on the scale and effect of the proposed changes and/ or related process, and the Applicant responded.

The ExA noted the comments made and set out that it would make its decision about whether to accept the changes by way of a Procedural Decision in due course.

7. Any other matters

Mr. Hayden, a local landlord, indicated that he had not been aware of the application until very recently and was unclear about how to comment on the Proposed Development.

The ExA advised that in the first instance he should speak to the Case Manager about the process and how to access information about the application on the Planning Inspectorate website, and then speak to the Applicant.

8. Close of the Preliminary Meeting

The ExA thanked the attendees for their participation, reminded them of the next stages of the process and reiterated that notes and the digital recordings of proceedings would be available on the Planning Inspectorate website as soon as practicable.

The meeting was closed at 12:05.