

**Gatwick Airport Northern Runway
Open Floor Hearing
Paul Rolfe, Representing Chichester College Group**

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Good evening. My name is Paul Rolfe. I am the Associate Principal, Employers & Stakeholders for the Chichester College Group. Our college group is in the top 5 largest in the country and we provide education and training opportunities across Sussex and beyond. We have seven colleges in our group including Crawley College which is located only a few miles from the airport. We have an annual turnover exceeding £110m, we deliver training to over 25,000 learners annually and we employ over 2,500 staff across our group. We are Ofsted outstanding, hold the HE quality standard of TEF Silver and are British Council Accredited. Finally, we deliver qualifications in all subject areas from entry through to Masters level.

Our Group is proud to have a long and sustained partnership with Gatwick Airport Limited. We have worked collaboratively to ensure the skills we are delivering are not only aligned closely to the current and future needs of the airport but also the many businesses in their supply chain network as well. Specifically, the airport has supported careers and recruitment fairs, airport visits for students, expert master classes and student work experience opportunities. The airport has also recruited a significant number of CCG alumni in a range of careers.

We are also proud to have Gatwick Airport Limited as one of our first core employer partners in our Sussex & Surrey Institute of Technology, which is a partnership between Further Education, Higher Education and business. The Institute aims to increase the number of learners taking and completing higher level STEM based subjects to support economic growth and increases in productivity. A key aspiration of the Sussex & Surrey Institute is to improve social mobility and champion diversity across all technical career pathways. To date, the airport has provided leadership expertise to support the curriculum intent, implementation and sequencing and has provided expert guidance to ensure our programmes have clear, articulated pathways. In addition, the airport has taken on apprentices and has provided career guidance and mentors for IoT learners.

It is our belief that the expansion of the airport through the second runway will not only create job opportunities but also enhance connectivity, opening doors to other educationally related opportunities which include

educational exchanges, research collaborations, and cultural experiences on a global scale. For example, the Group already takes advantage of Turing scheme enabling students to travel and take advantage of cultural exchanges. This year alone, students would have visited Spain, the Caribbean and Africa. The potential for new routes facilitates new international partnerships and collaborations which will enable us to further enrich the learning experiences of our students, broaden their horizons, and equip them with the skills and perspectives needed to thrive in an interconnected world.

CCG also has an extensive international education business and each year over 500 learners travel from overseas to study at one of the colleges in the Group. CCG has strong links with Japan and China and also runs an International Exam Board for English as a foreign language – Anglia Exams. Anglia works with 60 countries with a strong presence in South America, the Netherlands and Cyprus. CCG is keen to benefit from new travel routes to support new international education partnerships – a business that creates jobs and brings value to the local economy. We forecast significant growth in this area over the next few years including through our work with the British Council and Government.

We benefit from the airport as a major employer and economic driver, providing countless job opportunities for our learners and residents ultimately contributing substantially to the local economy. By expanding its capacity, Gatwick can continue to play a pivotal role in driving economic growth, creating jobs, and fostering prosperity for our communities.

Additionally, the expansion of Gatwick Airport will strengthen our regions position as a gateway to the UK, attracting tourists, businesses, and investors from around the world. This will not only provide a much needed boost our local economy but also enhance the regions reputation as a vibrant and dynamic place to live, work, and visit.

We fully appreciate and understand that the expansion of the airport comes with its challenges. We acknowledge the concerns raised regarding the environmental impacts and sustainability. These are key challenges which cannot be ignored. However, we believe that Gatwick Airport Limited is committed to mitigating these concerns through responsible planning and innovative solutions such as investment into alternative and sustainable aircraft fuels. The airport has a track record of investing in environmentally friendly initiatives, such as carbon offsetting programs, noise reduction measures, and sustainable energy projects, some of which have involved our students. We trust that the same level of

dedication will be applied to the development of the northern runway, ensuring that environmental concerns are addressed comprehensively and transparently along with ensuring there is sufficient investment in local infrastructure to deal with growth.

In summary, the construction of the northern runway at Gatwick Airport will not only benefit our college community economically but also academically, by enriching the learning experiences of our students, broadening their horizons, and equipping them with the skills and perspectives needed to thrive in an interconnected world.

Thank you.