

## **ISH 1 & 3 Final Submissions**

Following the attendance of the Gatwick Diamond Initiative at ISH 1 and 3, please find herewith our submission to Deadline 1:

### **1. Aligning Gatwick's Northern Runway Development with UK Aviation Policy and Environmental Goals**

Summary: The Gatwick Diamond Initiative supports the proposed development of Gatwick Airport's Northern Runway. We acknowledge that it must navigate the complex landscape of UK aviation legislation and the ambitious environmental targets outlined in recent strategic documents. The development's relevance and compliance with these frameworks are critical for its success and sustainability.

The relationship between Gatwick Airport's environmental commitments and the level of local business support is a testament to the evolving expectations of sustainability in aviation. Gatwick's proactive measures to enhance fuel-efficiency, promote SAFs, and optimise operational practices align with the broader industry goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

As the industry moves forward, the synergy between environmental initiatives and business support will be crucial in navigating the challenges and opportunities of sustainable aviation. This alignment not only underscores the feasibility of ambitious environmental targets but also highlights airports like Gatwick's pivotal role in driving a greener, more sustainable future for aviation.

- The Northern Runway project reactivates an existing, underused runway for departures, directly aligning with the government's strategy.
- Gatwick's approach to balancing increased capacity with the Jet Zero Strategy's environmental targets is multifaceted.
- Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs): Encouraging the adoption of SAFs, which has been shown to reduce emissions significantly, is a central element of Gatwick's strategy.
- Operational Efficiencies: Optimising ground operations to minimise emissions further supports the Jet Zero goals.
- Reducing aviation emissions is a global challenge that requires industry-wide collaboration.

#### **Maximise Existing Runway Use: A Strategic Priority**

The Department for Transport's policy, "Beyond the Horizon – The Future of UK Aviation" (June 2018), emphasises maximising the use of existing runways over constructing new ones. This policy underscores the need for airports across the UK to optimise their current infrastructure to meet growing demand efficiently. Gatwick's Northern Runway project is a prime example of this approach. By reactivating an existing, underused runway for departures, Gatwick directly aligns with the government's strategy, aiming to enhance capacity and connectivity without the need for entirely new runways.

#### **Meeting Jet Zero Goals: A Sustainable Approach**

The Jet Zero Strategy, launched in July 2022, sets forth a vision for achieving net zero emissions from aviation by 2050. Gatwick Airport has committed to aligning with these

ambitions by pledging to reach on airport net zero emissions for its operations (Scope 1 & 2) by 2030, in advance of the 2040 Jet Zero Strategy target. The Northern Runway Project, therefore, is not just about expanding capacity; it's also about innovating towards sustainability. The project faces the inherent challenge of balancing increased capacity with the Jet Zero Strategy's environmental targets. However, Gatwick's approach to this dilemma exceeds current strategy and is multifaceted, involving:

- **Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs):** SAFs adoption, which have been shown to reduce emissions significantly, is a central element of Gatwick's strategy. Early research, such as the European Union Aviation Safety Agency's (EASA) ALIGHT project, highlights SAF's potential to decrease ultrafine particle emissions by 30% and carbon emissions more broadly.

- **New Technologies:** Gatwick support the development and implementation of zero-emission aircraft, which will be crucial for the long-term sustainability of aviation.

### **A Collaborative Effort Towards Sustainable Aviation**

Gatwick's Northern Runway development is a case study in aligning infrastructure expansion with broader sectoral strategies and environmental goals. By prioritising the use of existing runways, supporting sustainable aviation practices, and engaging in collaborative efforts to reduce emissions, Gatwick is positioning itself as a leader in the future of sustainable aviation.

As the UK and the world move towards greener transport solutions, the proposed Northern Runway is a strategic initiative that must navigate complex UK aviation legislation and ambitious environmental targets.

### **The Nexus of Environmental Commitments and Local Business Support at Gatwick Airport**

Gatwick Airport's Northern Runway Project showcases the critical relationship between environmental commitments and the level of local business support. The project's success hinges not only on its capacity to enhance operational efficiency and connectivity but also on its alignment with progressive environmental goals.

### **Demonstrating Commitment to Net Zero Emissions**

The cornerstone of local business support for the Northern Runway Project lies in Gatwick Airport's robust commitment to achieve its on airfield net zero emissions. This involves a multi-faceted approach that encompasses promoting technological advancements promoting the transitioning to new green technology and optimising airfield operational practices to reduce carbon footprint.

### **Technological Advancements and Fleet Efficiency**

The promotion by Gatwick of the adoption of newer, more fuel-efficient aircraft is pivotal. Data indicates that modern fleets can consume 15-30% less fuel and significantly cut carbon emissions, underscoring the importance of fleet composition in environmental performance. Gatwick Airport's initiatives to work closely with airlines to ensure the use of newer aircraft models aligns with local businesses' expectations for sustainable growth.

### **Looking Ahead: The Future of Aviation Emissions Reduction**

The aviation industry is progressing towards significant environmental improvements, with the Jet Zero Strategy targeting net-zero emissions by 2050. This goal necessitates ongoing

technological advancements, fuel use, and operational practices. Gatwick Airport's previously demonstrated proactive approach to encouraging these advancements and optimising operations reflects a commitment to sustainable growth that resonates with the business community.

## **2. Recent growth**

Summary: As the world moves beyond the challenges posed by the pandemic and Brexit, Gatwick's Northern Runway emerges as a linchpin in the UK's strategy to embrace global opportunities. It signifies a forward-thinking approach to international trade and travel, preparing the UK to navigate and thrive in a complex global landscape.

By facilitating access to burgeoning markets across the globe, supporting the recovery of the travel industry, and offering a hedge against geopolitical volatility, Gatwick is poised to play a pivotal role in the UK's economic resilience and growth. The future looks bright, with Gatwick at the helm, steering the UK towards a horizon filled with promise and potential.

- The post-Brexit and COVID-19 pandemic era has transformed international trade and travel dynamics.
- Gatwick Airport's Northern Runway project presents a strategic opportunity for the UK to strengthen its position in the global market.
- Gatwick's location offers a viable alternative to Heathrow for businesses seeking connections outside the European Union.
- The project aligns with ongoing trade negotiations with nations like India and the Gulf Cooperation Council, opening doors to new goods, services, and investment markets.
- Gatwick's future-proofing strategy ensures businesses have diverse options for international expansion, making them less vulnerable to regional instabilities.

### **Recognise the Potential of the Gatwick Diamond Region**

The expansion of Gatwick's Northern Runway will maximise the benefits of several key global and regional developments. Among these, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) stands out. This free trade agreement encompasses countries with dynamic economies, such as Australia, Canada, Japan, and Vietnam. Joining this partnership could drastically broaden the UK's trading horizons, making Gatwick an essential hub for businesses venturing into these markets.

### **Seize Opportunities Beyond Europe**

Brexit has reshaped the UK's trade and travel dynamics, necessitating reevaluating its air transport strategy. Gatwick offers an appealing alternative to Heathrow, especially for connections outside the European Union. This shift is not just about geography; it's a strategic pivot towards global markets that promise growth and stability.

The airport's expansion is timely, considering the ongoing trade negotiations with India, the Gulf Cooperation Council, Canada, Mexico, Israel, and Switzerland. These discussions open doors to vast new markets for goods, services, and investment. Gatwick's enhanced capacity can bridge these opportunities, facilitating direct air routes that support trade in high technology, MedTech, luxury goods, defence, energy, and technology sectors.

### **Embrace Future-Proofing Strategies**

Gatwick's Northern Runway project is more than an infrastructure upgrade; it's a future-proofing strategy against geopolitical uncertainties. By expanding its route network, Gatwick ensures that businesses have various options for international expansion, making them less vulnerable to regional instabilities.

The negotiations with nations like India and members of the Gulf Cooperation Council underscore the potential for significant economic partnerships. Such deals could invigorate trade in critical sectors, reinforcing Gatwick's role as a crucial node in the UK's international trade network.

### **3. How Will the Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Plans Support Business and Tourism?**

Summary: The Gatwick Airport Northern Runway project presents a strategic opportunity to enhance business travel and tourism, positioning itself as a key player in the global market. This initiative aims to attract direct routes from major business and tourism hubs, improve inbound tourism through partnerships, and utilise underexploited cargo space. However, challenges such as competition, infrastructure needs, and airline partnerships must be addressed to realise its full potential.

#### **Fostering Economic Prosperity and Growth**

The Northern Runway project is a strategic move to unlock business potential and foster economic growth in the Gatwick Diamond and beyond. By enhancing business travel, boosting tourism, and supporting local businesses through cargo opportunities, Gatwick can drive regional development, create jobs, and contribute to the UK's economic prosperity.

The Gatwick Airport Northern Runway project stands as a pivotal development in the UK's aviation and tourism sectors. By addressing the challenges head-on and capitalising on the opportunities presented by direct routes, inbound tourism, and belly cargo, Gatwick can significantly enhance its role in supporting business and tourism. This strategic initiative promises to not only benefit the immediate region but also drive wider UK growth, showcasing the transformative power of thoughtful, forward-looking infrastructure investments.

### **4. The Need for the Gatwick Northern Runway and Mitigating Future Demand**

Summary: The Gatwick Northern Runway project is not just an expansion of airport infrastructure but a crucial step forward in meeting the growing demands of international travel and enhancing the UK's economic landscape. This development addresses several key areas, including the baseline case, future demand forecasts, logistical and technical operation details, airspace change proposals, and notably, the provision of hotel facilities.

The Gatwick Northern Runway project aims to meet the growing demands of international travel and enhance the UK's economy.

- It addresses key areas such as baseline case, future demand forecasts, logistical and technical operation details, airspace change proposals, and hotel facilities provision.
- The baseline case highlights the current capabilities of Gatwick Airport and the need for the Northern Runway due to insufficient infrastructure, particularly in meeting and conferencing facilities.

- Hotel development is crucial for Gatwick's evolution into an international business hub, and the project includes plans to increase hotel capacities and improve the quality of meeting and conferencing facilities.
- Seamless connectivity between the airport, hotels, meeting facilities, and transportation networks is crucial for the project's success.
- The Northern Runway project is a catalyst for economic growth, new job creation and regional development, supporting local and national economies.
- It represents a forward-thinking response to the challenges and opportunities of future demand in aviation and economic development.
- By addressing the need for expanded infrastructure, improved hotel, sustainable practices and the issues at Heathrow and its struggles to fund and deliver a third runway, Gatwick is poised to become a more pivotal hub in the international travel and business landscape.

### **Understand the Baseline Case**

At the heart of the need for the Northern Runway lies the baseline case: current capabilities are straining under the pressure of demand; Heathrow is at capacity. Gatwick Airport, nestled in the Gatwick Diamond, serves as a central hub for sectors like high tech, MEDtech manufacturing, fintech, IT, and AI technology. However, the lack of sufficient infrastructure, particularly in meeting and conferencing facilities, undermines its potential to attract international business and tourism.

### **Forecast Future Demand with Precision**

Forecasting future demand involves a complex analysis of trends, methodologies, sources and assumptions. The need for the Northern Runway is underscored by businesses' projections that highlight an increasing appetite for international travel and cargo transport. These are forecasts from business owners and investors, not just modelling pre-COVID, pre-BREXIT consider various factors, including economic trends, a changed geopolitical world order, global mobility patterns and regional development aspirations, ensuring the expansion aligns with long-term growth expectations.

## **5. How Will a Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Help to Create Better Socio-Economic Well-being in the Gatwick Diamond Region?**

*Summary: The Gatwick Diamond region stands at a critical crossroads, with the potential expansion of Gatwick Airport's Northern Runway promising to reshape its socio-economic landscape. This move is not just about improving airport capacity; it's about safeguarding the region's future prosperity, tackling unemployment, bridging social inequalities, and ensuring long-term economic resilience.*

- Northern Runway expansion could mitigate exacerbated unemployment and social inequalities.
- Direct and indirect airport-related jobs are crucial for the local economy.
- Airport growth can provide meaningful future employment and career personal development opportunities for vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.

- The expansion would act as a catalyst for regional economic revival, business growth, and tax revenue generation.
- Gatwick Airport is a crucial gateway for national and international trade and tourism, contributing to the UK's global competitiveness.
- Expansion aligns with post-BREXIT and post-COVID recovery efforts.
- The project represents a strategic opportunity as the economy meets the challenges of demographics and digitisation to reskill and upskill the local workforce for evolving industries.
- Environmental mitigation measures and community engagement are key to achieving sustainable growth.
- Credible alternative future infrastructure and economic development plans are necessary if the Northern Runway project is rejected.
- The project is a lifeline for the Gatwick Diamond region, offering a pathway to economic revival, social equality and long-term resilience.

### **Narrow the Gap of Widening Social Inequalities**

Economic downturns disproportionately impact the most vulnerable in society. By fostering this airport growth opportunity, we ensure that the economic benefits are shared widely, helping to narrow the gap of social inequalities. This is not just about creating jobs but about offering pathways to meaningful employment and personal development, which are vital for community cohesion and well-being.

### **Kickstart Regional Economic Revival**

Gatwick Airport is an economic powerhouse for the Gatwick Diamond region, with a substantial economic footprint. Curbing its growth potential risks stifling the wider regional economy, hampering business growth, and reducing tax revenue essential for public services. The Northern Runway expansion is a catalyst for economic revival, promising to invigorate the local economy, attract businesses, and secure the region's position as a competitive player in the global market.

### **Seize Beyond Regional Benefits**

Gatwick serves as a crucial gateway for the entire UK, enabling national and international trade and tourism. This expansion is about diversifying and strengthening economic resilience, opening post-Brexit opportunities, and facilitating a robust post-COVID recovery. By enhancing Gatwick's capacity, we ensure that the UK remains a pivotal player in global trade and tourism, fostering new partnerships and facilitating exports.

### **Addressing Structural Changes and a Changing World**

The Gatwick Diamond regional economy is undergoing significant structural changes, with evolving industries requiring new skill sets. The Northern Runway project represents a strategic opportunity to reskill and upskill the local workforce, ensuring they are equipped to meet the demands of a changing world. This expansion is not just about growth but about future-proofing our workforce and economy.

### **Balance Growth with Sustainability**

Recognising the valid concerns regarding environmental impact and community disruption, it's essential to conduct a balanced review of the airport's proposal. Implementing stringent environmental mitigation measures and engaging in open, continuous dialogue with the community are key to minimising negative impacts while achieving sustainable growth.

### **Embrace Alternative Growth Strategies**

Should the Northern Runway be rejected, it's crucial to have credible rigorous and robust alternative plans to stimulate job growth and skills development across the region. The economic and social well-being of the Gatwick Diamond region is deeply intertwined with Gatwick Airport's ability to evolve. This project is an opportunity to combat unemployment, reduce social inequalities, and foster a resilient, skilled workforce. The Gatwick Diamond region faces potential socio-economic challenges without expanding Gatwick Airport's Northern Runway.

## **6. 4.1 Strengthening the Future: The Role of Gatwick Airport's Northern Runway in Employment, Skills, and Business Strategy**

Summary: The proposed development of Gatwick Airport's Northern Runway stands as a transformative project, poised to significantly bolster the region's employment, skills, and business landscape. Through a strategic blend of collaboration, skills development, and future-oriented planning, this initiative is set to align closely with local and regional economic goals, driving prosperity and sustainability in the Gatwick Diamond and beyond.

The development of Gatwick Airport's Northern Runway is more than an infrastructure project; it is a visionary initiative that promises to catalyse significant socio-economic benefits for the Gatwick Diamond region. By championing collaborative efforts, addressing critical skills gaps, and preparing a future-ready workforce, the project aligns with and supports the proposed Employment, Skills, and Business Strategy.

It represents a forward-looking investment in the region's most valuable asset—its people—ensuring that the Gatwick Diamond remains at the forefront of economic innovation, resilience, and growth for years to come.

- The Northern Runway project aims to significantly boost employment, skills, and business in the Gatwick region.
- This initiative aligns with local and regional economic goals, driving prosperity and sustainability.
- Collaborative efforts between Nescot, Gatwick Airport, applicants, and the business community are essential to the project's success.
- The project addresses specific skills gaps to ensure a skilled workforce for a rapidly evolving job market.
- It focuses on preparing a future-ready workforce through initiatives like the Institute of Technology in Epsom.
- The emphasis on preparing individuals for the future workforce prioritises a skilled, adaptable, and resilient talent pool.
- The Northern Runway development is more than an infrastructure project; it promises significant socio-economic benefits.
- It aligns with the proposed Employment, Skills, and Business Strategy.

- The project represents a forward-looking investment in the region's people, ensuring sustained economic success and competitiveness.

### **Championing Collaborative Efforts**

At the heart of this development is a strong emphasis on collaborative efforts, bridging the gap between education, industry, and community. The partnership between Nescot (North East Surrey College of Technology), Gatwick Airport, various applicants, and the broader business community serves as a testament to the power of teamwork in achieving economic and social objectives. This collaborative approach not only enhances the project's viability in the Development Consent Order (DCO) process but also fosters a sense of shared purpose and commitment among key stakeholders.

### **Addressing Skills Gaps with Precision**

The Northern Runway project shines a spotlight on the pressing need to address specific skills gaps in the region. By focusing on targeted skills development and reskilling initiatives, the project aligns perfectly with local economic aspirations, ensuring that the workforce is equipped to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving job market. This skills-driven strategy underlines the importance of preparing individuals for not just the jobs of today but also the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

### **Preparing a Future-Ready Workforce**

Looking beyond immediate needs, the project places a strong emphasis on cultivating a future-ready workforce. This foresight is crucial in an era marked by rapid technological advancements and changing economic landscapes. The establishment of the Institute of Technology in Epsom stands as a concrete example of this commitment to future preparedness. By fostering a dynamic partnership between Nescot, Gatwick Airport, and the wider business community, the institute is poised to offer cutting-edge reskilling and upskilling opportunities that are directly aligned with the region's skills agenda.

This emphasis on preparing individuals for the future workforce underscores a proactive approach to economic development, prioritising the cultivation of a skilled, adaptable, and resilient talent pool. It recognises that the path to sustained economic success and competitiveness lies in the continuous development and enhancement of the workforce's capabilities.

## **7. 5.1 The Impact of the Northern Runway on Labour Supply in the Gatwick Diamond Region**

Summary: The introduction of the Northern Runway at Gatwick Airport is poised to bring about significant changes in the Gatwick Diamond region, particularly concerning the labour supply. This ambitious project is not just about enhancing airport capacity; it's intricately linked to the broader socio-economic framework, including the critical areas of employment

- The expansion is expected to create a surge in job opportunities, both directly related to the airport and in ancillary services.
- There is a need to ensure a steady supply of labour to fully leverage the opportunity.
- There is a consensus among the Gatwick Diamond business community and local stakeholders on the necessity for policy changes.
- Gatwick Airport's commitment to improving transportation and connectivity plays a critical role in this equation.



- The Northern Runway project at Gatwick Airport stands as a potential catalyst for substantial socio-economic transformation in the Gatwick Diamond region.
- Through a combination of policy advocacy, sustainable development practices, and improved transportation infrastructure, the region can harness the full potential of this expansion.

### **Addressing the Labour Supply Challenge**

The expansion is expected to create a surge in job opportunities, both directly related to the airport and in ancillary services. This increase in employment prospects is a boon for the region, potentially attracting a skilled workforce from various sectors.

### **Enhancing Transportation and Connectivity**

Gatwick Airport's commitment to improving transportation and connectivity plays a critical role in this equation. By investing in public and green transport initiatives, such as supporting Metrobus's hydrogen vehicle investment and enhancing EV charging infrastructure, Gatwick is helping to create a more sustainable transportation environment. These efforts not only aid in managing the dependency on personal vehicles but also make the region more accessible and attractive for residents.

## **8. Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Project Gains Unprecedented Support from the UK Business Community**

The Gatwick Airport Northern Runway project has garnered remarkable support from the business community across the United Kingdom, marking a significant milestone in the airport's expansion plans. With over 55,000 businesses rallying behind the initiative, the level of support underscores the project's perceived value and its potential impact on the UK's economy, particularly in the post-pandemic landscape.

The overwhelming support for the Gatwick Airport Northern Runway project from the UK's business community highlights the project's significance in driving economic growth, employment opportunities, and sustainable development. As the epicentre of the South East economy, Gatwick's expansion plans are poised to bolster the UK's economic resilience, attract and retain businesses, and ensure the continued success of the region.

The concerted support from business leaders across the country signals a collective recognition of the transformative potential of the Northern Runway project, setting the stage for a brighter, more connected, and sustainable future.

- The businesses endorsing the project recognise Gatwick's pivotal role in the UK's aviation and economic sectors.
- The project aims to optimise existing infrastructure by adjusting the Northern Runway's centre line, allowing departing flights to operate alongside the main runway.
- The project is expected to create over 10,000 jobs and deliver an economic boost of more than £1 billion annually.
- The business community's endorsement also recognises Gatwick's commitment to sustainability.
- The airport's sustainable aviation plan focuses on reducing noise levels and carbon emissions.

- The broad-based support from the business community is a testament to Gatwick Airport's strategic importance as a regional economic hub and a national asset.
- The Northern Runway project promises to strengthen the UK's global competitiveness, enhance international connectivity, and support the tourism industry's growth.

### **Uniting for Economic Growth and Resilience**

In an unprecedented move, representatives from 52 business groups, including the Institute of Directors Sussex, CBI London, and the London Chamber of Commerce, have coalesced to express their support for Gatwick's Northern Runway project. This collaboration, spearheaded by the Gatwick Diamond Initiative, highlights a broad consensus on the project's importance for the nation's economic future. The letter to the Secretary of State for Transport reflects a significant uptick in backing, growing from 36 business groups in 2021 to 52, showcasing an expanding geographical and numerical base of support.

### **Recognising the Strategic Importance of Gatwick**

The businesses endorsing the Northern Runway project understand Gatwick's pivotal role in the UK's aviation and economic sectors. The project's low-impact plan aims to optimise existing infrastructure by adjusting the Northern Runway's centre line. This adjustment is designed to allow departing flights to operate alongside the main runway, effectively doubling the airport's capacity in a sustainable manner.

### **Economic and Employment Opportunities**

The Gatwick Airport Northern Runway is not just an infrastructure project; it's a catalyst for substantial economic and employment growth. With the promise of creating over 10,000 jobs and delivering an economic boost of more than £1 billion annually, the project offers a lifeline to the region's and nation's economy. This support comes at a crucial time when the impacts of the pandemic and ongoing economic challenges threaten the sustained benefits previously generated by the airport.

### **Commitment to Sustainable Growth**

The business community's endorsement also recognises Gatwick's commitment to sustainability. The airport's sustainable aviation plan focuses on reducing noise levels and carbon emissions, aligning with the UK's broader environmental objectives. This focus is particularly pertinent as the airport positions itself as a leader in sustainable aviation, with plans that support the country's transition to net zero.

### **A Testimony to Local and National Benefits**

The broad-based support from the business community is a testament to Gatwick Airport's strategic importance, not only as a regional economic hub but also as a national asset. The Northern Runway project promises to strengthen the UK's global competitiveness, enhance international connectivity, and support the tourism industry's growth. It also underscores the airport's role as an economic anchor, creating jobs, supporting supply chains, and driving regional growth.