

The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP
Secretary of State
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

14th September 2023

Dear Secretary of State

As one of the world's busiest airports, Gatwick is a vital piece of national infrastructure that provides investment and commercial opportunities for our members and the organisations we represent.

In 2021 we wrote to your predecessor, Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, as a coalition of 36 business groups. Our letter represented 20,000 businesses from across the South East who benefit from the Gatwick supply chain, the millions of tourists who fly into the airport each year and the diverse economic clusters that have flourished.

We now write to you again to reiterate our support as Gatwick's planning application, to bring its Northern Runway into routine use, makes its way through the Development Consent Order process.

Since 2021, the support from the business community has significantly increased, both in numbers and geography. Today, 52 business groups, representing over 55,000 businesses across this Region & the UK have pledged support for Gatwick's Northern Runway Project.

This increase demonstrates the appetite from the UK business community to support Gatwick's future and to recognise the national importance of this application.

The South East has worked hard to recover from the impact of the Covid pandemic and navigate the current economic challenges. With the Northern Runway plans delivering new global and regional connections, not to mention more than 14,000 jobs and a significant economic boost of over £1bn per year in the Region, the opportunity to support the nation's economy and increase our resilience is one we are proud to support.

We welcome Gatwick's commitment to ensure local people are supported through new jobs, education and skills, as well as giving regional businesses opportunities for inclusion in the airport's supply chains. This will help increase local businesses' investment and create opportunities now for residents, and for future generations.

Finally, but no less important, we also welcome the airport's plans in relation to the impact on the environment and note the airport's commitment to a global low carbon future for aviation. This aligns with the wider UK aviation sector's ambitions to achieve net zero aircraft emissions and supports the Government's climate targets.

We urge you to support this planning application as it moves forward with its Northern Runway Project. Together, we can overcome the challenges we face, revitalise our region, and build a brighter future for all.

Yours sincerely

Brett North
Chairman

cc:

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Stewart Wingate, Chief Executive, Gatwick Airport Ltd



Andrew Swayne
Chairman
Adur & Worthing Business
Partnership



Christina Ewbank
The Alliance of Chambers of
East Sussex



Andy Holter
Chairman
Battle & District Chamber of
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Howard Martin
President
Bexhill Chamber of Commerce

**Brighton & Hove
Destination Experience
Group**

Gavin Stewart
Chairman



Dean Orgill
Chairman
Brighton & Hove Economic
Partnership



Anne Ackord
President
Brighton & Hove Tourism
Alliance



Matt Bristow
Chairman
Brighton BID



Robert Windsor
Chairman
British International Freight
Association



Richard Cox,
Chief Executive
Burgess Hill Business Park
Association



John Dickie
Chief Executive
Business LDN / London First



Anneka Hendrick
Regional Director for London
and the South East
CBI



Paul Rolfe
Chairman
Chichester Chamber of
Commerce & Industry



Rosemary French
Chairman
Cranleigh BID



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Chairman
Cranleigh Chamber of
Commerce



Wendy Bell
Executive Director
Crawley Town Centre BID



Louise Sinclair
Chairman
Crowborough & District
Chamber of Commerce



Katharine Glass
Director
Develop Croydon



Christina Ewbank
Chief Executive
Eastbourne Chamber of
Commerce



Lisa Thompson
Business Manager
East Grinstead Business
Association



Liz McAreavey
Chief Executive
Edinburgh Chamber of
Commerce



Michael Lassman
Regional Chair
FSB London



Ian Ross
Regional Chair
FSB Southeast



Sally Brown
General Manager
Gatwick Diamond Business



Brett North
Chairman
Gatwick Diamond Initiative



Tamas Jurca
Chairman
Gatwick Hotels Association

Gatwick Small Hotels Group

Chris Smith
Chairman



Alice Gill
Executive Director
Guernsey Chamber of Commerce



Bharat Lukka
Governor
Gurjar Hindu Union



Clive Soper
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Richard Williams
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Heathfield Chamber of Commerce



Mike Humphrey
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Michele Augousti
Chairman
IOD Sussex



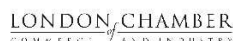
Jo James
Chief Executive
Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce



Clare Crouch
President
Lewes Chamber of Commerce



Brett Pearson
Services Director
Locate East Sussex



Richard Burge
Chief Executive
London Chamber of Commerce & Industry



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Corinne Day
Executive Director
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Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce & Industry



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Commerce



Fran Downton
Chief Executive
Tourism South East



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Secretary
Uckfield Chamber of
Commerce



Tony Hedger
President
Worthing & Adur Chamber of
Commerce