

## **North East Surrey College of Technology (Nescot) – Julie Kapsalis**

My name is Julie Kapsalis & I am CEO & Principal at North East Surrey College of Technology (NESCOT). We are a large further education college based in Epsom in Surrey. I have also served as Chair of Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership for the past 4 years and am a Director of Gatwick Diamond Business.

I have worked in partnership with Gatwick airport over the past 20 years. My work with the airport has covered training and skills development, innovation, inward investment and trade and work around supply chain management.

In particular, Gatwick Airport Limited has been a trailblazer for supporting innovation in skills. The airport's apprenticeship scheme in engineering is best in class and has won the prestigious GDB award for apprentice of the year twice in the past 3 years. This success is due to the airport's commitment to training the next generation and working with local schools, colleges and universities to develop a pipeline of talent. They have also invested in programmes to recruit more women and minority groups into engineering.

I am proud to be part of the region's Institute of Technology that brings together higher and further education and businesses to deliver level 4 and above qualifications and to plug skills gaps. Gatwick Airport were the first employer to sign up to the consortium, acting as a catalyst for other major businesses to join. They have also employed the first apprentice in the IoT - in cyber security.

The Runway plan will create new jobs for the region and attract inward investment. With Gatwick's investments in new technologies including automation and use of AI, they and their supply chains will create highly skilled jobs that will attract and retain talent in the local area and support sustainable economic growth.

The State of the Nation 2017, Social Mobility report placed Crawley as the least socially mobile borough in the south east with particular issues around low numbers of people with Level 4 and above qualifications. Whilst progress has been made in the last 7 years, especially with work led by Crawley College, there is still much to do to support local residents access higher skills and jobs. The jobs that the Runway plan would create are key to continuing to support this economic priority for Crawley.

I am a member of the Employment, Skills and Business Strategy ([ESBS](#)) group and I welcome Gatwick's proactive approach to engagement and listening to employers and education providers. However, I am clear that future plans for the airport need to be sustainable and parallel investment needs to be made in green technologies and to mitigate environmental impacts and new infrastructure required.

Having spent time in an almost deserted airport during Covid and seeing the devastating impact in Crawley as the most furloughed place in the UK, I realise the importance of not taking the airport for granted and instead, supporting them to grow back better to drive economic growth as a global gateway and flagship employer.