

The Planning Inspectorate

15 July 2024

our ref: ESCC/GAL/NRP/DCO

Dear Sir/Madam

**Gatwick Northern Runway Project (Project Reference: TR020005)
East Sussex County Council Registration Identification Number: 20044514
Deadline 7 [REP7-] Submission**

Please accept this letter as our response to Deadline 7 of Gatwick Airport's Northern Runway Project Development Consent Order Public Inquiry.

Firstly, I would like to provide confirmation that East Sussex County Council are supportive of the Joint Local Authorities (JLA) responses being submitted at Deadline 7 by Crawley Borough Council. Specifically:

- the JLAs response to the Applicant's Deadline 6 submissions
- the JLAs response to the Applicant's response [REP6-093] to the JLA's Deadline 5 Submission, The requirement for an Environmentally Managed Growth Framework (EMGF) Paper [REP5-093]

Additionally, we are particularly supportive of West Sussex County Council's submission to the Examining Authority at Deadline 7 in relation to Gatwick Airport's [REP6-030] Environmental Statement Appendix 5.4.1: Surface Access Commitments Book 5 Version 3, and the inclusion of the need for improved bus service provision between East Sussex and Gatwick Airport. Further details can be seen below:

- As highlighted in our D6 submission [REP6-097] East Sussex has made continued requests for the Applicant to include bus service improvements between the county and Gatwick Airport in the Surface Access Commitments.
- As set out in the latest Statement of Common Ground between East Sussex County Council and the Applicant [[REP5-040](#)] (reference: 2.20.4.1), ESCC considers the Applicant's proposals in the latest version of the Surface Access Commitments [[REP-3-030](#)] insufficient to deliver the scale of bus and coach improvements from East Sussex to the Airport that are required.
- At the present time, the only public transport access to the airport from East Sussex is by rail, and there are no direct bus or coach services available; a position which could undermine the Applicant's delivery of its mode share targets. We will continue to press

the Applicant to reconsider its stance on improved bus services to East Sussex and include indicative routes to East Sussex within Table 1 on page 7 of the Surface Access Commitments [\[REP-3-030\]](#) in the list of proposed routes and frequencies for enhanced local bus services.

- Our specific requests for bus service improvement are included in our Local Impact Report [REP1-070], Comments on the Applicant's comments on the Local Impact Report [REP4-047], Statement of Common Ground [REP5-039/040], and Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statement [REP5-088/089]. These are, in summary:
 - Extending the 261 route beyond East Grinstead to provide a direct service between Uckfield and Gatwick Airport. ESCC wish to see the operational hours of the service extended to include early mornings, evenings and weekends.
 - An hourly bus service from Uckfield to Gatwick Airport and extending this service to Hailsham / Hellingly (we had previously identified an extension to Heathfield but with recent housing allocations for the Hailsham/Hellingly area this is now considered the higher priority area for connectivity to Gatwick).
 - A Crowborough to Gatwick service which could run via Forest Row and East Grinstead thereby, in combination with the extended 261 Uckfield – Forest Row – East Grinstead – Gatwick service, doubling the frequency between Forest Row and Gatwick.

Should you have any questions on the issues raised above please do not hesitate to contact localtransportplan@eastsussex.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



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Director Communities, Economy and Transport

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