



Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee

## Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Project – Development Consent Order (DCO) GATCOMs Closing Statement

At the start of the examination period, Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee (GATCOM), the airport's statutory independent consultative body, registered as an interested party and submitted its relevant representation on Gatwick Airport Limited's (GAL's) proposals to bring the existing Northern Runway into routine use alongside the main runway.

In the pre-application consultations GATCOM neither supported nor opposed GAL's vision for growth, nor attempted to document every view expressed by individual GATCOM members, but instead highlighted areas where members reached a common view or understanding and made representations which encouraged steps to minimise adverse impacts, mitigate their effects and secure appropriate infrastructure. The Committee recognised the importance of the airport as a significant asset that contributes to the regional economy and GATCOM noted the support from businesses across the South East. However, GATCOM is still also firmly of the view that any proposals for growth need to be achieved responsibly, sustainably, and with a focus on the well-being of communities around the airport and mitigation to address the negative impacts of the airport's operation.

In our relevant representation GATCOM reviewed issues previously highlighted to GAL in their pre submission consultations and tried to ascertain whether GAL had addressed those issues in the proposals submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. We acknowledged that GAL had addressed within their proposals many of the issues previously raised, but GATCOM continued to have some concerns that were detailed and included in our relevant representation. Those issues centred around Mitigation, Surface Access, Noise, Climate Change and Emissions. GATCOM acknowledges that GAL responded to all the points raised in our relevant representation.

Since that submission, GATCOM has followed all and participated in some of the DCO examination hearings and reviewed the many written submissions from various parties. Many GATCOM members, either via their organisation or individually, have submitted comments throughout the examination and contributed at hearings. GATCOM is pleased that the issues we highlighted have been discussed at the issue specific hearings and as a result GATCOM has not felt the need to make any further submissions at the various deadlines.

As the Examining Authority is aware GATCOM consists of members from local authorities, business, airlines and environment and community groups. This inevitably results in many differing views. We are aware that there remain some

unresolved issues between some parties, including GATCOM members and GAL. In particular our environmental group, GACC, remain concerned over noise, in particular noise metrics, night flights, and the noise impacts of more flights. They are also concerned about the economic benefit statement which they feel does not fully reflect the climate costs; climate change and the environmental impacts; aspects of surface transport and the impact on local roads; and the water flooding risks. More detail of their concerns will be included in their own submissions.

GATCOM is encouraged by GAL and the Joint Local Authorities latest submissions that state parties have been engaged in detailed discussions regarding the terms of the s106 Agreement and are pleased that broad agreement has now been reached and it is anticipated that full agreement will follow by deadline 9. The s106 agreement contains detail of many of the areas that GATCOM has an interest in and GATCOM will continue to seek regular updates from GAL and the Local Authorities and other parties on issues contained within the s106 such as Air Quality, Noise, Surface Access, the Community Fund, Employment, Skills and Business, Biodiversity and Landscaping. We are also aware that the DCO will secure mitigations and controls over future growth at the airport and GATCOM is pleased that the Joint Local Authorities and other interested parties have made submissions to ensure these controls are robust and fit for purpose.

Whatever the outcome of the DCO application, GATCOM will continue to work with its members and GAL in a positive and constructive manner and monitor all matters concerning the management of the airport which affects the interests of users of the airport, local authorities and others representing the interests of those within the locality of the airport.