

27 August 2024

Application by Gatwick Airport Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Project – Planning Inspectorate Examination Procedure

Interested Party Reference number: 20044783

London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) further submission August 2024

James Watkins, Head of Policy and Public Impact, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) spoke at the 28 February 2024 Open Floor Hearing regarding the Application by Gatwick Airport Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Project.

LCCI is the capital's largest independent business community, with a network of more than 9,000 companies. Our members represent every sector of the economy, from SMEs to multi nationals, supporting thousands of jobs and ensuring London is the engine of the UK's economy.

We support members' businesses through a range of services, advocate in the most important forums of policy debate, and promote 'Global London' as the best city in the world to do business – whether that's to trade, invest, learn, or find new commercial partners. We facilitate new business connections and leverage our network to generate greater shared prosperity for London.

LCCI has been helping businesses grow through international trade since 1881. As one of the country's largest issuers of export documentation, our members recognise the importance of connectivity with overseas markets. Aviation plays a pivotal role in London's competitiveness as a world leading global city.

Polling by LCCI and Savanta highlighted that 83% of London businesses agree that air connectivity is important to making London competitive on the global stage.

Aviation is vital to the UK and world economies, enabling people to travel and experience different cultures, connecting people for leisure and business. As a sector, aviation supports businesses of all sizes throughout its supply chain, and indirectly through the benefits it brings. Aviation is also critical to the movement of freight into and out of the UK, underpinning economic growth.

Gatwick Airport plays a critical role in its local community, regionally and nationally, both through direct job creation and by supporting business activity, including as a major contributor to local employment.

Transport is one of LCCI's key priorities, and London Gatwick Airport is a critical piece of infrastructure that helps London maintain its world city status.

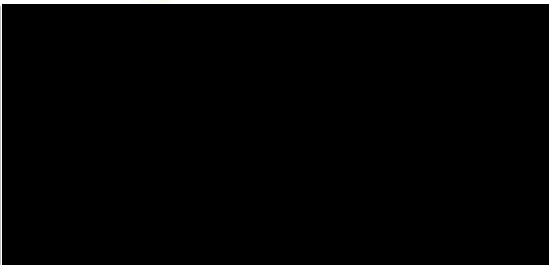
By connecting the UK with the world, London Gatwick Airport plays a vital role in supporting local businesses in the area through its supply chain, allows firms from all over the UK to access opportunities internationally, and enables London's world-class culture and tourism sectors to thrive.

Given aviation's importance to the UK economy, the aviation sector must continue to grow whilst also moving towards a greener future as businesses transition to net zero. LCCI's Aviation 'Green Skies' report and programme explores London's aviation landscape and how it can become better prepared to meet the challenges of today for the needs of tomorrow. It provides an insight into the efforts being made to decarbonise the sector, including the efforts being made by Gatwick Airport, and the steps needed to further accelerate the transition to net zero.

LCCI supports London Gatwick Airport's plans for the Northern Runway, which will create more capacity and increase accessibility to UK regions that are not connected to the capital by rail. London is a gateway for investment into the UK and this proposal will ensure that we have better connectivity across the country, which in turn will spread growth and opportunity to all corners of the UK.

These well-balanced proposals will mean that the Northern Runway can be utilised for business growth and be sensitive to the needs of local residents. Fundamentally, these plans mean that Gatwick can develop whilst contributing to the shared goals we all need to take to address the climate emergency.

LCCI backs these plans as Gatwick Airport is a great asset for West Sussex, for London – and for the United Kingdom.



Karim Fatehi MBE
Chief Executive

London Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI)