

Gatwick Northern Runway Project – 22 June 2021

Summary of Points and Questions from Roundtable Discussion

Present:

Janet Roskilly	Friends of Goff Park, Crawley
Andrew Eley	Three Bridges Forum, Crawley
Jean Elmer	Tilgate Forum, Crawley
Nigel Hilpaul	Horsham Denne Neighbourhood Council
Donald Mahon	North Horsham Parish Council
Joy Gough	North Horsham Parish Council
Apologies	Horsham Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council

The Northern Runway Project is restarting after being temporarily paused in the spring due to Covid-19. The project will seek Development Consent, via the 2008 Planning Act, for a dual-runway operation using the existing Northern Runway in tandem with our main runway. Despite the fact that passenger numbers are still low and may continue to be so for some time to come, progressing our application to deliver long-term growth and added resilience at Gatwick is the best way to secure the airport's long-term future and the earliest return to it being the economic heart of our regional economy, with all the benefits for local employment and livelihoods that this will bring.

Work has now commenced to prepare for a public consultation in the summer of this year, in which all residents and stakeholders will be able to give their views on the schemes proposals. Following the conclusion of this consultation, and after carefully considering all the feedback received, we would expect to submit an application to the Planning Inspectorate for Development Consent sometime in 2022. As part of the project restart we will be re-engaging with the Local Authorities and other stakeholders including Parish and Town Councils, to ensure that they are kept informed of the project's progress and are able to engage effectively with the consultation materials which will be produced.

The slides that were presented at the meeting are being circulated together with a summary herein of the questions raised at the meeting. A short film explaining the process for a Development Consent Order can be found [here](#).

- **What is the likely schedule for operating the Northern Runway, including during the night period?**

The schedule would be similar to the current pattern. The Department for Transport has for many years had in place air traffic movement limits to restrict noise impacts during the night period (2330-0600). Gatwick's summer limit is 11,200 but, in the Winter, this is reduced to 3,250 flights.

It is worth mentioning that there is an ongoing night flights restriction consultation. The night flight restrictions consultation was published on 2 December 2020. It has two main purposes. Firstly, to consult on the proposal to maintain existing night flight restrictions at the designated airports (Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted) from 2022 to 2024 and the proposal to ban QC4 rated aircraft movements between 11:30pm and 6am. The second purpose is to

acquire early views and evidence about future night flight policy both at the designated airports and nationally beyond 2024. The consultation on the short-term proposals has now closed but the deadline for responses on the longer-term policy reform has been extended.

- **Given that Gatwick has deferred its capital expenditure is it your intention to pursue the DCO promptly ie in earnest now?**

Yes. Earlier in the year we recommenced the planning process and began to prepare the application for development consent by gathering and updating economic, social and environmental information, carrying out further surveys and scoping and we are already actively engaging with public bodies and statutory consultees. It is a relatively lengthy process and we hope the application itself will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate sometime in 2022. It will then be an 18-month process (as outlined in the presentation) with a decision not expected until 2024. The early phases of the project will take somewhere in the region of 5 years to build and therefore a dual runway would not be operational before 2029. Given the timescales involved, this is why we have commenced the planning application now.

- **This is clearly a long-term project, but local communities will be interested in what is happening in the near future. What's happening in the next 6 months?**

Formal public consultation is likely to take place in late Summer 2021 (possibly September) and we will, of course, be widely publicising the dates in advance, as well as setting out how we will carry out the consultation. The purpose of these meetings is to raise awareness of the scope of the Northern Runway project and to explain how communities can engage in the public consultation. We are keen to encourage participation in the consultation process.

- **Will details about the consultation be easy to find?**

Yes. It is an open and transparent process and all documentation that is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) can be seen in full on the PINS website. We will also ensure that the pages of the Gatwick Airport website regarding the Project are easy to find, comprehensive and clear in regard to the application and the consultation.