

Secretary of State for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

6th June 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

Application by Gatwick Airport Limited Seeking Development Consent for the Proposed Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Project (Ref: TR020005)

Response to the Secretary of State's letter dated 27th February 2025

We refer to the letter dated 27 February 2025 stating that you are minded to grant consent for the Northern Runway Project (NRP).

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce would like to offer our feedback from this response and the subsequent response from Gatwick Airport Ltd (GAL).

In general, we are satisfied and confident that the Surface Access (Requirement 20) proposed by GAL will mitigate the impact of increased traffic and travel volumes on the local economy. In particular, we are mindful of the multi stakeholder requirement of implementing many of these mitigations and feel that the staged approach proposed by GAL of "monitor and respond" would be a more effective plan. This would allow multiple agencies to schedule works, resources and funds alongside existing priorities, whilst also creating a series of events that have a lesser impact on the local economy of a longer period of time. This gradual approach is favoured by our Members in the area.

Additionally, the slower more gradual approach allows the application of innovation and local skills development to play a larger part in these projects, since the leveraging of these aspects are externally constrained.

Finally, the longer-term socio-economic benefits to the region will be significant and on balance, address any perceived short-term imbalance in growth. The increase in international opportunities following the announcement of Free Trade Agreements with India, the resetting of the UK_EU trade cooperation agreement, combined with the volatility of the US trade policy, has placed a greater need than ever on the connectivity of the UK and London Gatwick in particular.

Your Sincerely,

Tudor Price, CEO