

## **GWR's response**

**June 2025**

We are grateful for the opportunity to respond to the Secretary of State's request for comments on this important scheme. Gatwick's Northern Runway Project shows the importance of transport connectivity in relation to economic growth and Great Western Railway supports the proposed development.

Great Western Railway (GWR) works collaboratively with London Gatwick to encourage use of sustainable modes and enable higher public transport mode shares for airport passengers and staff. In March 2025, we entered into a partnership with London Gatwick and Surrey County Council to promote the need to invest in and improve the North Downs Line, which links Oxfordshire, the wider Thames Valley, Berkshire and Surrey with London Gatwick.

This partnership approach to surface access has delivered significant improvements in recent years, and we now want to take this further, developing our network in response to the proposed DCO, which requires further improvements to the North Downs Line to support that growth.

We believe the package of measures included in London Gatwick's Surface Access Commitments (SAC) provide a sound basis for managing and mitigating the impact of road traffic associated with growth, in partnership with transport operators and supporting sustainable travel. The inclusion of ringfenced funding for rail is welcomed and GWR is ready to engage proactively with London Gatwick in its efforts to achieve its ambitious but realistic mode share targets. This includes ongoing timetable development alongside longer-term plans under development to replace our Class 165 trains in the future.

We recognise the significant funding commitment made by the airport and their desire to achieve "best in class" sustainable mode shares through investment and proactive monitoring. GWR supports the approach taken by London Gatwick to provide dedicated funding for further analysis of the impacts on train services and contributions to rail mitigation measures, should they be required. London Gatwick is one of the busiest stations on our network and delivers rail demand throughout the day, supporting a level of service that drives economic benefits for other communities along the line. There is considerable potential to increase rail mode share for passengers and staff, and GWR will continue to work in partnership with London Gatwick to achieve their aspirations.