

DEVELOP CROYDON FORUM STATEMENT SUPPORTING LONDON GATWICK'S NORTHERN RUNWAY PLANS

The Develop Croydon Forum is writing to support London Gatwick's response to the additional conditions proposed for the Northern Runway following the Secretary of State for Transport's 'minded to grant consent' announcement.

The Northern Runway project represents a £2.2billion investment and is critical for the UK's growth agenda. Importantly, it can be achieved in a relatively short period of time for such a major project and is funded by private investment.

In an increasingly global world where trade is key to the growth our country needs to stimulate our economy, creating greater employment opportunities as well as improving standards of living, major developments such as the Northern Runway are essential.

We believe that London Gatwick's ability to drive growth thanks to its expanding global reach will be the catalyst not just for the much-needed economic regeneration of Croydon but for the region's entire business and innovation ecosystem.

Having reviewed London Gatwick's response, we are fully in support of their recommendations which will enable the airport to grow sustainably to meet passenger demand while addressing the Secretary of State's concerns around noise and environmental impact.

The investment in our region, which is already a key driver of UK growth and prosperity, is much needed if London and the South East are to continue to deliver for the exchequer. We are therefore hopeful that the Inspectorate will accept London Gatwick's amended proposals to ensure that the Northern Runway can be fully utilised. In particular we support their proposals for additional traffic tests ahead of dual runway operations beginning.

We believe London Gatwick's test will achieve the same results as the Secretary of State's suggestion of achieving a specific level of public transport use before dual runway operations, but will ensure there can be control over the tests which will provide the much-needed shareholder confidence required for this major investment in our infrastructure to go ahead.

Major infrastructure opportunities to boost local economies and kickstart regeneration come once in a lifetime – and the Develop Croydon Forum is hoping that the Planning Inspectorate will approve the amended plans to bring Gatwick's Northern Runway into routine use.