

# B

## Future Growth of Gatwick Airport (Planning and Economic Development Portfolio)

The Cabinet considered report [CEX/040](#) of the Chief Executive which:

- 1) Outlined the work of the independent Airports Commission established to examine the scale and timing of any requirement for additional capacity and to identify and evaluate how any need for additional capacity should be met.
- 2) Explained that Gatwick Airport Limited had made a submission to the Airports Commission which outlined three options for providing a second runway at Gatwick to the south of the existing runway based on the vision that the additional runway capacity that was required to maintain the UK's aviation hub status would be best provided by a constellation of airports around London with Gatwick, Stansted and Heathrow all having two runways, rather than a single "mega hub" airport.
- 3) Emphasised that there was limited detailed information available on many of the impacts at this stage but that more detailed assessments would be undertaken if Gatwick formed part of the shortlist of options put forward by the Airports Commission for more detailed consideration at the end of 2013.
- 4) Set out three broad options for the Cabinet and the Council to consider with the recommendation of officers that given the current limited level of detailed information available, particularly on the environmental impact of a second runway, that options for a second runway should be shortlisted by the Airports Commission to enable more detailed assessments to be carried out.
- 5) Noted that the deadline for responses to the Airport Commission for Stage 1 proposals was 27 September 2013 and outlined the next steps in the process.

The matter had been considered at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission (OSC) held on 9 September 2013. Councillor Jones (in referring to the Commission's comment sheet to the Cabinet) outlined to the Cabinet:

- 1) The range of views expressed which mainly related to concerns about:
  - a) the current absence of sufficient evidence and detail (as clearly identified in the report) upon which to develop an informed view on the likely economic, environmental and other implications for the Borough with regards to either any of the proposed runway options or of not having a 2<sup>nd</sup> runway.
  - b) supporting the officers' recommendation of Option 3 in case, in the later stage of the Airport Commission investigations, this view would be seen by default as the Council supporting a 2<sup>nd</sup> runway.
- 2) The requests of the OSC for the Cabinet to note that:
  - a) the majority of the OSC Members felt that due to the lack of detail on the impact of a further runway on the Borough, Option 3 was too strong in support and, instead, agreed that Option 1 should be the preferred option put forward to the Full Council;

- b) it endorsed recommendations 1(i), 2 and 3;
- c) due to the significant nature of the report, the Cabinet be asked to support their view that all Members of the Council should not be whipped and should be given a free vote on this report at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council on 26 September 2013.

Members of the Cabinet acknowledged:

- 1) that the conclusions reached by the Airports Commission and any subsequent decisions by the Government would have a fundamental effect on the character and economy of Crawley and the surrounding area;
- 2) that the issues were complex and with the options both for Gatwick and other airports still to be refined and the implications adequately evidenced it was difficult to achieve an essential aim to balance strategic and economic considerations with environmental concerns;
- 3) that views expressed in the various consultations and surveys undertaken so far had reflected the division of opinion in the town;
- 4) the importance of not wanting to commit the Council to a particular stance before all of the issues and implications had been fully evaluated.

Members of the Cabinet:

- 1) welcomed the OSC's support for recommendations 2 and 3 and its request for a free vote;
- 2) considered that they should not put forward a preferred option to enable individual Councillors to fully represent their Wards and not to appear to undermine the principles of a free vote;
- 3) also emphasised the need to be fully engaged in the process so as to be able to more effectively represent the public particularly when the absence of detailed information and evidence suggested it was too early to make an informed decision on what the Council would be supporting or opposing.

The Cabinet agreed to delete recommendation 1(ii) which put forward Option 3 for support at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council to facilitate a more open and free debate and vote.

The Cabinet also expressed its thanks to the officers, particularly Rachel Cordery, for producing such an excellent report which clearly and concisely set out the issues that needed to be considered by the Full Council and requested that this be minuted.

## **RESOLVED**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) That the Full Council be RECOMMENDED at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council on 26 September 2013 to consider the following range of options:

Option 1: To determine that, in line with existing policy, the Council does not support a second runway at Gatwick Airport

based on what is currently known about the likely impact of a second runway on the area.

Option 2: Not to express a view on a second runway at Gatwick Airport at this current time until more information especially on environmental impacts is available as part of the next stage of the work of the Airports Commission. As the scale of the impact of a second runway is not fully understood at present, this will enable the environmental implications to be fully considered alongside the economic benefits in light of a wider set of available information.

Option 3: To agree that the options for a second runway at Gatwick should be put forward for further consideration by the Airports Commission in the next stage of its work in 2014/15. The Council reserves its view on a second runway pending the outcome of the detailed assessments to be carried out in this next stage. The Council seeks the opportunity to actively engage with Gatwick Airport to ensure that the further assessment of the runway options by Gatwick are robustly undertaken and provide the level of information that would enable the Council and other interested parties to make an informed decision on a second runway.

- 2) That the Borough Council, without prejudice to its position with regards to a second runway, seeks to work with Gatwick and other Local Authorities on the detailed assessment of runway options at Gatwick.
- 3) That the Borough Council should highlight in any response to the Airports Commission, the need for the Airports Commission and the government to provide clarity at the earliest appropriate opportunity with regards to the need for future safeguarding of land for additional runways if in the event that particular locations for additional runways are ruled out.
- 4) That due to the significant nature of the issues, the Cabinet support the view of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission that all Members of the Council should not be whipped and should be given a free vote on this report at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council on 26 September 2013.

**Reason for Decision –**

The report indicates that there is a range of recommendations that Full Council could consider in determining its view on a second runway at Gatwick. It is the view of officers that the Council should support Gatwick being included in the Airports Commission's shortlist of options for additional runway capacity being put forward for more detailed assessment. This would enable any decision with regards to the Council's position on second runway to be made in the light of a more detailed assessment of the environmental impacts can then be considered alongside the economic benefits.