

Cabinet

Wednesday 11 September 2013



Comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on Monday 9 September 2013

1. Agenda Item 8 – Future Growth of Gatwick Airport

Comments and Recommendation

The Commission held a discussion on report CEx/040 with the Chief Executive, Forward Planning Manager, Principal Planning Officer and the Senior Environmental Health Officer regarding the Future Growth of Gatwick Airport.

During the discussion the following points were expressed:

- All Members felt that it was an excellent report as it clearly outlines the issues that needed to be considered by the Full Council.
- Concerns were expressed over the general lack of detail required for this stage of the process by the Airport Commission. Members felt that residents needed to understand as soon as possible what implications there would be for the Borough with regards to any of the proposed runway options and the related changes to infrastructure surrounding the airport, including housing demands.
- It was confirmed that within Gatwick Airport's dossier, they had submitted to the Airport Commission their preference for the location of a proposed second runway which was either option D, E and F, which were much closer to the Town Centre compared to a number of the other options.
- Questions were raised as to what evidence was available that proves that by not having a second runway it would significantly impact economically on the Borough as implied in Paragraph 5.4, especially as paragraph 7.8 of the report seems to counter that claim.
- Views were expressed as to why a second runway was required, when currently Gatwick Airport was not running at its maximum capacity, which was agreed by the Council in 2003.
- The majority of the Commission had reservations that if the Council put forward the officers' recommendation of Option 3 as its view, to the Airport Commission, that in the later stage of the Airport Commission investigations, this view would be seen by default as the Council supporting a second runway.

The majority of the Commission believed it was desirable to express a preference between the options set out in the report to the Cabinet.

This was on the basis that the Commission consists of a broad cross-section of "backbench" Councillors from across the Borough, and an indication of their views based on the detailed discussions which had taken place there, would assist both the Cabinet and other members of the Full Council when deciding which option to support.

The Commission then examined the recommendations including the 3 options. The majority of the Members felt that due to the lack of detail over the impact of a further runway on the Borough, Option 3 was too strong in support. Instead it was felt that Option 1 should be the preferred option put forward to the Full Council.

The Commission agreed unanimously that all votes on the Future Growth of Gatwick Airport should be taken without any form of Group whipping.

The Cabinet is requested to:

1. Note that the Commission endorsed recommendations 2 and 3.
2. Note that the majority of the Commission did not support the recommendation 1 ii) and instead requested that the Cabinet replace the words 'Option 3' with 'Option 1' within the proposal for Full Council, so that it would read:
 1. *Recommend to the Special Meeting of the Full Council on 26 September 2013 that:*
 - ii) *The Full Council adopts **Option 1**, subject to the determination by the Special Meeting of the Full Council as to which option it supports to be put forward to the Airports Commission.*
3. The Commission asked that, due to significant nature of the report, the Cabinet supports their view the all Members of the Council should not be whipped and given a free vote on this report at the Full Council on 26 September 2013.

Councillor Michael Jones
Vice-Chair/Acting Chair
Overview and Scrutiny Commission
10 September 2013