

# Crawley Borough Council

## Agenda for the Full Council

To: The Mayor and Members of the Council

You are summoned to attend an EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the **Full Council** which will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Crawley, on **Monday 26 January 2015** at **7.30 p.m.**

Nightline Telephone No. (01293) 551636



**Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

Please contact Roger Brownings (Legal and Democratic Services Division) if you have any queries regarding this agenda.

Telephone number: 01293 438549

Email: [democratic.services@crawley.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@crawley.gov.uk)

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**Emergency procedure for meetings will be circulated to Members and visitors attending this meeting. Please familiarise yourself with these procedures and the location of fire exits.**

## **Business - Part A**

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

### **2. Members' Disclosures of Interest**

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, Members of the Council are reminded that it is a requirement to declare interests where appropriate.

### **3. Communications**

To receive and consider any announcements or communications.

### **4. Public Question Time**

The questions must be on matters specifically relating to the Airports Commission consultation – being the matter for which this Extraordinary Meeting was called, and should not include statements.

One supplementary question from the questioner will be allowed.

Up to 30 minutes is allocated to Public Question Time.

### **5. Report of the Cabinet Meeting of 14 January 2015 – Response to the Airports Commission Consultation on Additional Runway Options in the South East**

To receive the extract of the report of the Cabinet's meeting held on 14 January 2015 relating to this Airport matter (**Enclosure A**), and to determine upon the recommendations contained therein.

#### **Note re Copies of the Report of the Chief Executive:-**

*The majority of Members have received the Part A report of the Chief Executive on the Response to the Airports Commission Consultation on Additional Runway Options in the South East, as part of the circulation of the joint booklet of reports for the 12 January meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and 14 January meeting of the Cabinet.*

*To assist consideration of this Airport matter, it is suggested that Members bring their copy of the report to this extraordinary Full Council meeting.*

*All Members have received an electronic copy of the report as part of that booklet, and Hard copies can also be obtained on request from Democratic Services (Tel: 01293 438283. E Mail: [democratic.services@ Crawley.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@ Crawley.gov.uk))*

**This information is available in different formats and languages. If you or someone you know would like help with understanding this document please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01293 438549 or email: [democraticservices@ Crawley.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@ Crawley.gov.uk)**



#### **64. Response to Airport Commission Consultation on Additional Runway Options in the South East (Planning & Economic Development Portfolio)**

The Cabinet considered report [CEX/45](#) of the Chief Executive. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development introduced the report which summarised the findings of the Airports Commission's assessments, and set out the Borough Council's response to the Consultation. The report set out recommendations that would enable the Council to adopt an overall position in addition to responding on the technical issues. The report also noted the deadline for the full response to the Airports Commission of 3 February 2015.

The matter had been considered at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission (OSC) held on 12 January 2015. Councillor Ward (in referring to the Commission's comment sheet to the Cabinet) outlined to the Cabinet the range of views expressed:

- All Members felt that it was an excellent report as it clearly outlined the impacts and concerns that needed to be considered at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council, whilst also highlighting the large discrepancies and number of areas that had been neglected by the Airports Commission and Gatwick Airport Limited (GAL).
- Concerns expressed over the discrepancy between the unemployment rate stated by the Airports Commission, and the actual unemployment rate, together with the contradiction between the airport providing jobs for Crawley residents where there is a "good skills match" and also providing an increase of "apprenticeships". Concern that these apprenticeships should be for local residents.
- Concerns expressed regarding the transport infrastructure, both rail and road, particularly the impacts on the local road network which had not been assessed, highlighting the north west edge of town and toward Charlwood.
- It was felt that the Airports Commission's conclusions on the likely housing numbers, with huge ranges because of the scenarios, and their deliverability were questionable, particularly as Crawley already has large unmet housing need.
- Concerns expressed about the lack of recognition of the need for new infrastructure to support increased housing growth, including schools and health facilities, and the importance of securing funding and delivery, in advance of any construction and reconfiguration.
- Concerns raised that some issues (Forge Wood, and other facilities such as The Gatwick School and St Michaels and All Angels Church) appear to have been overlooked by the Airports Commission and for example where Outreach 3Way would be re-sited.
- Concerns expressed over air quality and noise as a result of increased road traffic, particularly as no assessment of road traffic noise had been undertaken by the Airports Commission.
- Concerns raised over the significant increase in air traffic noise as a result of a second runway, particularly central and northern neighbourhoods of the town.
- Concern expressed about the loss of trees, destruction of hedgerow and the general ecological damage.

All Members of the OSC felt there was now sufficient information and detail provided over the impact of a further runway on the Borough, and therefore Members should be in a position to take a specific view. The Commission believed that residents now sought a definitive statement as to the Council's intentions. As a result, all Members did not support recommendation 2.2 1a) and proposed that this recommendation be removed from the report.

It was thought any decision made would not preclude the Council working closely with Gatwick Airport, the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (C2C LEP), the Environment Agency and other local authorities.

Members of the Commission believed that the detailed technical response to the Airports Commission should be a response from a collective group. It was strongly suggested to the Cabinet that a Working Group with wider membership be convened to agree the Council's full response to the Airports Commission, although it was acknowledged that timescales might prove problematic.

It was commented that there was a need for certainty regarding future safeguarding of land in Crawley.

The Commission proposed that all votes on the Response to the Airports Commission Consultation on Additional Runway Options in the South East should be taken without any form of Group whipping.

- The requests of the OSC for the Cabinet to note:
  1. That the Commission unanimously did not support the recommendation 2.2 1a) and it is proposed that this recommendation be removed.
  2. That the Commission requested the establishment of a Working Group as a means of agreeing the response to the Airports Commission.

Councillor Burrett welcomed the proposal from the OSC to remove recommendation 2.2 1a). He commented that even if individuals did not have a specific view, the fact that there were many different variables and the figures were dependent on different scenarios indicated that the Council should only be in a position to reject the second runway.

The Cabinet:

- Thanked the OSC for its comments. Due to the significant nature of the issues, the Cabinet supported 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 January 2015.
- Confirmed that the technical issues would be incorporated into the full response to the Airports Commission.
- Verified that due to the Airports Commission deadline of 3 February 2015, there would be insufficient time to convene a working group in order to agree the full response to the Airports Commission. It was added that previous consultation had taken place and there was still sufficient time for Members to provide views on the Airports Commission's report.
- With regard to the proposed removal of recommendation 2.2 1a), it was commented that the recommendations allow Members a free vote which aids

openness and transparency, rather than polarising the decision. It was added that the options within the recommendations would not alter the debate at the Special Full Council, instead they provided the option for further negotiation and investigation on the infrastructure, without weakening the Council's position. It was acknowledged that should the option to maintain the current holding position be removed, this may reduce any negotiation terms. Therefore a holding positioning and awaiting further clarification and information might prove advantageous. In addition, retaining the recommendations allows for full participation of all Members. It was stated that the Council was still in negotiations and there were arrangements in place to continue to work with Gatwick Airport Limited (GAL), (particularly in terms of securing funding), in order to obtain the best possible outcome for the people of Crawley to include both residents and businesses, irrespective of the position of the second runway. The Cabinet were in agreement with recommendations 2-5 and agreed that Special Full Council would decide between options proposed in recommendation 1.

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

## **RESOLVED**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That it is **RECOMMENDED** to the Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council to be held on 26 January 2015 that:
  - a) The Full Council considers that the interests of Crawley residents and businesses are best served by the Council not taking a specific view on the second runway at this time.
  - b) If (a) is not supported, the Council considers which of the following options it supports to be put forward to the Airports Commission:
    - i) The Full Council considers that the interests of Crawley residents and businesses are best served by the Council objecting to a second runway being developed at Gatwick.
    - ii) The Full Council considers that the interests of Crawley residents and businesses are best served by the Council supporting in principle a second runway being developed at Gatwick.
2. Agree that, without prejudice to the decision in (1) above, the proposed responses on the individual topic areas outlined in section 5 in report CEx/45 be submitted to the Airports Commission, subject to a full, detailed technical response expanding on these issues being agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader;

3. Agree that, without prejudice to the decision in (1) above, the proposed additional mitigations and infrastructure requirements set out in section 5 be submitted to the Airports Commission, subject to a full, detailed technical response expanding on these issues being agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader;
4. Agree that the Borough Council, without prejudice to the decision in (1) above continues to work closely with Gatwick Airport, the C2C LEP, the Environment Agency and other local authorities on the future of the airport, whatever decision is made on the location of a new runway;
5. Agree that the Borough Council should highlight in its response to the Airports Commission the need for the Commission, and the Government to provide clarity at the earliest appropriate opportunity with regards to the need for future safeguarding of land in Crawley borough for additional runways if a second runway at Gatwick is not the recommended option.

### **Reason for Decision**

The current Consultation by the Airports Commission is the opportunity for the Council to comment and question the Commission's detailed assessment work to date, and to respond to the Commission's conclusions on the shortlisted options. The Commission is also inviting suggestions on how shortlisted schemes could be improved, through enhanced benefits or additional mitigation. Although the Council can adopt a position on airport expansion at any time, it is likely that this will be the final opportunity for the Council to feed into the Airports Commission's work, to provide local evidence to counter some of the Commission's conclusions, to highlight key issues which have not been addressed, and to identify additional infrastructure or mitigation that should be provided if a second runway at Gatwick is recommended. These detailed responses are important whatever position the Council takes about a second runway at Gatwick, but the recommendations also provide the opportunity for the Council to consider options in determining this view.