

POINTS TO MAKE TO YOUR MPs, COUNCILS AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT

GATWICK AIRPORT: GROWTH WITHOUT SCRUTINY

Gatwick Airport has announced plans for very significant growth by using its main runway more intensively and by making routine use of its emergency runway.

The Development Consent Order (DCO) it is currently progressing only addresses the 40% of its growth that would come from bringing its emergency runway into routine use for the first time. However, Gatwick believes that the 60% of its growth plans, to be achieved by making more intensive use of its main runway, does **not** require planning consent.

In our view, it cannot be right for the airport to be able to grow in this way without a full and formal assessment of all the impacts of that growth, including public consultation. It is clearly perverse that the smaller element of Gatwick's proposed growth should be subject to thorough scrutiny and assessment through a DCO process, but that the larger growth element should escape scrutiny altogether.

Growth without scrutiny on the scale Gatwick are proposing runs contrary to Government policy which requires major growth at all airports to be "*judged by the relevant planning authority, taking careful account of all relevant considerations, particularly economic and environmental impacts and proposed mitigations*".

Gatwick should not be able to side-step government policy by clever manipulation of the planning process.

We therefore ask you to take all actions at your disposal to ensure that Gatwick's main runway growth plans are brought within the scope of a robust, independent planning process.