

# Gatwick Airport

*This position is taken by the Coastal West Sussex Partnership; we should lobby and gain support for this position from all local MPs and Local Authorities to help deliver sustainable growth across the Coastal West Sussex area.*

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“It (aviation connectivity) drives productivity and is an important factor in business innovation and investment. For example studies and surveys confirm that international transport links influence decisions by companies on where to locate their headquarters”.

Airports Commission Final Report, July 2015

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## **Our Position Statement on expansion at Gatwick Airport**

***We will support Gatwick Airport’s expansion plans and we will work closely with Gatwick Airport Ltd and its partners to ensure that these deliver the maximum employment and economic benefits to Coastal West Sussex.***

## **Why this is important nationally**

- Airports are critical to modern, globally connected economies. They provide access to international markets, support tourism, encourage investment and contribute to productivity improvements.
- The UK tourism industry is forecast to grow significantly over the coming decades, particularly as a result of the growth in travel amongst the expanding middle class in developing economies.
- Estimates suggest that core activities at Gatwick Airport contribute £5.2bn to the UK economy each year and support 85,400 jobs, once indirect and induced effects are taken into account. Inbound tourism supported by Gatwick Airport contributes a further £6.1bn annually and supports 130,600 jobs. The catalytic effects of the airport provide an additional £1.1bn to the UK economy<sup>1</sup>
- Planned increases in passenger numbers to 52 million by 2025 will be delivered by more efficient single runway use, infrastructure improvements and an improved customer experience.
- This will increase the annual economic contribution of Gatwick Airport to the UK economy to £6.5bn (+£1.3bn) and increase the number of jobs that its core activities support to 98,000 (+12,600). Inbound tourism supported by Gatwick Airport will contribute £7.5bn (+£1.4bn) and support 154,000 (+23,400) jobs; and the catalytic effects will provide a further £3.8bn (+2.7bn)<sup>2</sup>.
- The UK Industrial Strategy recognises the role of ‘connectivity institutions’ in helping to promote trade and create jobs.

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<sup>1</sup> The Economic Impact of Gatwick Airport; Oxford Economics, 2017

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*

## Why this is important to Coastal West Sussex

- High value businesses cluster around airports, providing good quality jobs that support economic growth<sup>3</sup>.
- The Gatwick Airport Ltd has plans for £1bn of capital expenditure between 2014 and 2020, which include:
  - Expansion of North Terminal and South Terminal departure lounges and immigration halls
  - Upgrading shopping facilities
  - Additional aircraft parking stands and optimisation of taxiways
  - Additional car parking capacity, improvements to surface access and the road network around the airport<sup>4</sup>.
- Estimates suggest that around 1,000 people who work in either on-site or off-site Gatwick Airport jobs live in Coastal West Sussex. The airport supports around 1,450 jobs in Coastal West Sussex, once indirect and induced effects are taken into account. Gatwick Airport contributes around £66m (excluding catalytic effects) to the Coastal West Sussex economy each year and airport supported tourism visitor spend contributes a further £67m<sup>5</sup>.
- If 52 million passengers per year use Gatwick Airport, the number of direct Gatwick Airport jobs filled by Coastal West Sussex residents would increase to around 1,150 (+100), rising to 1,750 (+300) once indirect and induced effects are taken into account. It would contribute £81m (+£14m) to the Coastal West Sussex economy annually (excluding catalytic effects). Airport related visitor spend would contribute a further £96m (+£29m) each year to the Coastal West Sussex economy<sup>6</sup>.

## What we will do

- Promote and support initiatives that strengthen supply chains between Gatwick Airport businesses those that are located in Coastal West Sussex.
- Lead and create tourism related initiatives so that Coastal West Sussex benefits fully from the projected increase in Gatwick Airport's annual passenger numbers.
- Help Coastal West Sussex's learning providers secure training agreements with Gatwick Airport businesses.
- Support improvements to road and rail infrastructure, ticket pricing and timetabling so that jobs at Gatwick Airport are more accessible to Coastal West Sussex residents.
- Find effective ways to promote airport-related job opportunities to Coastal West Sussex residents.
- Identify businesses that are looking to locate near to Gatwick Airport and work to ensure that Coastal West Sussex can fully meet their physical and human capital relocation requirements.

## Our Gatwick Airport Champion: CWS Board Member - Chris Coopey

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<sup>3</sup> Airports Commission, Final Report; Airports Commission (2015)

<sup>4</sup> Connecting London to the World – A New Deal at London Gatwick: Revised Business Plan to 2024, Gatwick Airport Ltd (2013)

<sup>5</sup> Understanding the Economic and Employment Impacts on Coastal West Sussex of not Having a Second Runway at London Gatwick Airport, Nairne Ltd (2014)

<sup>6</sup> *ibid.*