The Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP
Secretary of State
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

2nd December 2024

Dear Secretary of State

Following the Examining Authorities recommendation for London Gatwick's Northern Runway planning application, we are writing on behalf of 55 business organisations, representing over 63,000 members, to urge you to support this application.

As one of the world's busiest airports, London Gatwick is a vital piece of our national infrastructure. The airport provides investment and commercial opportunities beyond the geography of London and the South East, as demonstrated by the organisations represented in this letter. We represent businesses across the Nations of the UK, from multinationals to start-ups employing thousands of workers and generating £billions for the UK economy.

The ambitions of the business organisations listed below strongly align with the pledges of the Labour manifesto, particularly the key promise of economic stability and working with business to boost growth everywhere. We believe that £1billon a year promised by the Northern Runway and the opportunities for the UK will strengthen its position globally. In addition, the approval of this planning application will deliver:

- £2bn+ of private sector investment in the South East region
- New global and regional connections
- New runway capacity and improved economic resilience
- A significant boost the economy by helping support new jobs, tourism and trade
- 14,000 new jobs
- The opportunity to drive wider UK growth, showcasing the transformative power of well-considered infrastructure investments

We are also cognizant of the Labour manifesto's commitment to sustainability and achieving net zero targets. We believe that this planning application aligns deliverable infrastructure expansion with environmental goals. By making use of existing, underutilised facilities and supporting sustainable aviation practices, London Gatwick is leading the way for the future of aviation.

In 2023 we wrote to your predecessor as a coalition of 52 business groups. Our letter represented 55,000 businesses who benefit from the Gatwick supply chain, the millions of tourists who fly into the airport each year and the diverse economic clusters that have flourished. Today, this number has grown to 55 organisations. This shows the need for investment and support for the business community, from large multinationals to local SMEs, has significantly grown in the last 12 months alone.

For the future prosperity of UK businesses, we urge you to support this planning application.

Yours sincerely

Brett North
Chairman

cc:
Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer
Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds MP Secretary of State for Business and Trade
Stewart Wingate, Chief Executive, Gatwick Airport Ltd

Andrew Swayne
Chairman
Adur & Worthing Business Partnership

Christina Ewbank
The Alliance of Chambers of East Sussex

Darren Buss
Chairman
Battle & District Chamber of Commerce

Howard Martin
President
Bexhill Chamber of Commerce

Brighton & Hove Destination Experience Group

Gavin Stewart
Chairman

Dean Orgill
Chairman
Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership

Anne Ackord
President
Brighton & Hove Tourism Alliance

Gavin Stewart
Executive Chair
Brighton BID

Steve Parker
Director General
British International Freight Association

Richard Cox,
Chief Executive Officer
Burgess Hill Business Park Association

John Dickie
Chief Executive
Business LDN / London First

Anneka Hendrick
Regional Director for London and the South East
CBI

Paul Rolfe
Chairman
Chichester Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Rosemary French
Chairman
Cranleigh Chamber of Commerce

Wendy Bell
Chief Executive
Crawley Town Centre BID

Louise Sinclair
Chairman
Crowborough & District Chamber of Commerce

Richard Plant
Chairman
Develop Croydon

Christina Ewbank
Chief Executive
Eastbourne Chamber of Commerce

Grahame Russell
Chairman
East Grinstead Business Association

Michael Lassman
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Rebecca George
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Mike Gregory
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