

Report to: Scrutiny Committee

Date: 12 September 2022

Title: Request from the Council for the Scrutiny Committee's consideration of Gatwick Airport's Carbon Neutrality Pledge

Report of: Ian Fitzpatrick (Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning)

Ward(s): All

Purpose of report: To consider the request from the Full Council following a motion looking at the Carbon Neutrality of Gatwick Airport and how this accords with the Council's pledge to be Carbon Neutral by 2030.

Officer recommendation(s):

- a) That the Scrutiny Committee considers the request from Full Council following the motion detailed at 1.1
- b) That the Scrutiny Committee decides whether an additional Scrutiny meeting with all stakeholders invited, or the appointment of a Task Group, which will operate in accordance with 23 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Constitution), best meets the request from the Full Council.
- c) That, should the Scrutiny Committee decides to appoint a task group, it determines whether the Task Group meetings are held privately or in public and the size of the task group.
- d) That, should a Task Group be appointed, it reports back to the Scrutiny Committee prior to providing a report to Full Council.

Reasons for recommendations: To respond to the request from Full Council and fulfil the Scrutiny Committee's role in investigating available options for future direction in policy development.

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1 Introduction

1.1 At the Full Council meeting on 20 July 2022, the following motion was resolved:

'Eastbourne Borough Council notes its previous support for a second runway for Gatwick Airport in 2013. Since then, Eastbourne Borough Council has pledged to be Carbon Neutral by 2030. Eastbourne Borough Council further notes the UK Government has committed to increase airplane capacity and a new runway located at either Heathrow or Gatwick. Eastbourne Borough Council understands that Gatwick Airport has claimed to be the first carbon neutral London airport in 2017 and states on their website that they are committed to net zero direct emissions by 2040.

Eastbourne Borough Council asks the Scrutiny Committee to consider these claims and the carbon neutrality pledge of Gatwick airport and the impact on the Council's carbon neutrality pledge 2030 - before considering further its support for a second runway. This should include both passenger journeys to and from the airport and fuel emissions.'

2 Scope

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Committee may choose to hold an additional meeting and invite any stakeholders it feels will usefully inform the discussion. The meeting will be used solely to look at the issues around the request from Full Council.
- 2.2 Alternatively, Members may wish to appoint a Task Group to look at the request. The Task Group will report back to the Scrutiny Committee with its findings and a full report will be provided to the Council at a future meeting.

For both options the Committee may wish to consider and review a range of areas including:

- Existing data and studies on Gatwick Airport's current levels of carbon emissions.
- An analysis of Gatwick Airport's proposal to have net zero direct emissions by 2030
- Testimony from expert witnesses within the industry or as independent persons and any other stakeholders that it is considered would provide input into the work.

3 Task Group Composition and Approach

- 3.1 The guidance on arrangements for Scrutiny task groups is included at Appendix A to this report. The Task Group will normally comprise two Councillors (one from each of the controlling group and the main opposition group). However, if the Committee wishes to it can appoint more than two members on a proportional basis.
- 3.2 The Scrutiny Committee can recommend whether the Task Group meetings are held in public or private.
- 3.3 Once the work of a Task Group is complete, it will report its findings back to the main Scrutiny Committee.

4 Timetable

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee recommends that the Task Group provide a final report to its 6 February 2023 meeting, prior to providing a report to the 22 February meeting of the Full Council. The Task Group will determine the number of meetings it considers will be required to collect information, listen to witness testimonies and provide a final report.

5 Financial appraisal

- 5.1 The cost of the task group will in the main be indirect. The impact on other service areas will be dependent on the composition and ask of the task group of existing resource, especially officer time, which will may need to be diverted from delivering other outcomes.

6 Legal implications

- 6.1 There are no direct legal implications as a result of this report.

7 Risk management implications

- 7.1 There are no direct risk management implications as a result of the report.

8 Equality analysis

- 8.1 There is no direct impact on equality or fairness as a result of this report

9 Environmental sustainability implications

- 9.1 This report will support the Council by recommending that the carbon neutral position of Gatwick Airport be considered. This is in the context of the Council's pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030.

10 Appendices

- Appendix A – Scrutiny Procedure Rule 23 (Procedure at a Scrutiny Task Group)

11 Background papers

The background papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

- [Minutes and Agenda for Eastbourne Borough Council Full Council on Wednesday, 20th July, 2022, 6.00 pm \(lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk\)](https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/minutes-and-agenda-for-eastbourne-borough-council-full-council-on-wednesday-20th-july-2022-6.00-pm)