

**Report to:** Full Council

**Date:** 22 February 2023

**Title:** Scrutiny of Gatwick Airport's Carbon Neutral accreditation and the effect of the development of the Northern Runway on Eastbourne Borough Council's Carbon Neutral pledge for 2030

**Report of:** Councillor Shore on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee

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The Council is asked to consider the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee held on 9 January 2023 and 6 February 2023:

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### **Minute Summary:**

On the 6 February 2023, the Scrutiny Committee met to consider recommendations for a report previously considered on the 9 January 2023. The item was added to the Committee's work programme following the Full Council motion on the 22 July 2022.

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

At the 9 January meeting, Members requested that any decision be deferred until further information could be provided by Gatwick Airport Ltd. The information was provided to the Committee prior to the 6 February meeting.

The following Members were present for consideration of the report on the 9 January and the recommendations agreed on the 6 February:

Councillors: Kshama Shore (Chair), Josh Babarinde (Vice Chair), Jane Lamb, Md. Harun Miah, Amanda Morris, Hugh Parker and Robert Smart.

Full Council is asked to consider the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee. By a majority of 5 in favour and two against, the Scrutiny Committee **resolved** that it:

1. Is committed to advancing the Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030 (ECN2030) agenda, as committed to by Eastbourne Borough Council councillors in 2019.

2. Recognises the progress that Gatwick Airport Limited has made to achieve carbon neutrality in its Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, securing a 'Neutral' (Level 3+) Airport Carbon Accreditation as awarded by Airports Council International (ACI).
3. Recognises the potential economic value that the proposed Northern Runway Project at Gatwick Airport could bring to Eastbourne.
4. Is aware that the additional Scope 3 emissions enabled by - and associated with - Gatwick Airport's current proposals for the Northern Runway Project could be significant, may not be carbon neutral, and could therefore compromise the ECN2030 commitment.

**The Scrutiny Committee therefore recommends that Full Council:**

- 1. Makes any support for Gatwick Airport's Northern Runway Project conditional on Gatwick Airport's production and pursuit of a credible plan, in partnership with its Scope 3 stakeholders, to work towards carbon neutrality across its Scope 3 emissions by 2030.**
- 2. Calls on any Government to mandate a faster transition to low-carbon aircraft fuels, and to provide meaningful support to the fuel industry, airlines, manufacturers and other aviation industry stakeholders to achieve this.**

The agenda and minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meetings held on [9 January](#) and [6 February](#) 2023 are available on the Council's website.

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