

NOTICE OF MOTION

**GREEN GROUP
NO EXPANSION OF GATWICK AIRPORT**

This committee agrees:

In the light of the legal challenge to the construction of the third runway at Heathrow, to publicly oppose the expansion of Gatwick Airport;

To commission a report to Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee that examines the environmental degradation and negative social impact of such an expansion;

To request the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Transport expressing this council's opposition to the expansion, abiding by the spirit of the Paris Climate Agreement and HM Government commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050;

To continue to invest in environmentally sustainable public transport as part of the modal shift and lobby government and Transport for South East for further investment in public transport;

To reassert the call for effective action on the toxic air quality in several parts of the city;

To continue to work tirelessly for more local jobs which will benefit our local and tourist economy.

Proposed by: Councillor Mac Cafferty

Seconded by: Councillor Clare

Supporting Information:

-Further to the successful legal challenge in the Court of Appeal to stop the construction of the third runway at Heathrow, other London airports are lobbying to become the next airport to expand. This would bypass the significant ruling from the Court of Appeal which confirms that the Paris agreement temperature goal has a binding effect and is inconsistent with HM Government commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050.

-There is colossal and exponential damage caused to the environment through airport expansion especially the associated depreciation of air quality. As a city with toxic air quality in several areas, this should concern us. Research from the European Society for Cardiology has found that air pollution knocks almost three years off average life expectancy.

-This council's current position is from a 2015 Notice of Motion at the then Economic Development & Culture committee (EDC) which seeks the expansion of Gatwick Airport.

-The recent failure of leisure flight company FlyBe and the effect of the Covid-19 virus on the international aviation industry, which both expose structural weaknesses within the economic model of airport expansion.

-60% of flights at Gatwick are leisure-related to other parts of the UK, while nationally 15% of the population take 70% of the flights.

