

Press Release: 21 September 2025 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release: See you in Court !

GACC Condemns Government Approval of Gatwick Northern Runway Expansion

The Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC) expresses deep disappointment and alarm at today's decision by the Secretary of State to approve Gatwick Airport's Development Consent Order (DCO) for the expansion of its Northern Runway.

This decision paves the way for a second operational runway in all but name, with the potential to increase Gatwick's annual flight numbers by over 55,000 — significantly expanding the airport's capacity and environmental footprint.

Peter Barclay, Chair of GACC, said:

"This is a profoundly irresponsible decision that flies in the face of climate science, environmental evidence, and the interests of local communities. Expanding Gatwick Airport at a time when the UK is legally bound to reduce emissions is a betrayal of future generations."

"This flawed decision prioritises short-term commercial interests over the long-term environmental and social costs. It will worsen noise pollution, traffic congestion, and carbon emissions — all in an area already under pressure."

GACC and other environmental and community groups provided extensive evidence during the DCO examination process outlining the damaging consequences of the scheme, including:

- A significant increase in annual carbon emissions
- Intensified aircraft noise over hundreds of communities across Surrey, Sussex, and Kent
 - Risks gridlocking on overstretched road and rail networks

Contradictions with the UK's legally binding climate commitments under the Climate Change Act and the Paris Climate Agreement

Peter Barclay added : "The Government has ignored the evidence of its own planning inspectorate and dismissed the concerns of thousands of residents. GACC will continue to fight for a sustainable future, not one dictated by unsustainable airport expansion."

GACC will now challenge this irresponsible decision

– Ends –

Media Contact:
GACC Press Office
press@gacc.org.uk
01293 862821
07720 397354
www.gacc.org.uk

Peter Barclay
Chairman GACC

