



The countryside charity
Sussex

27.2.25

PRESS RELEASE: Dismay as Gatwick Airport expansion gets ‘minded to approve’ nod from government

CPRE Sussex says taxpayers will be left footing the bill as second runway looking likely to get the green light.

Campaigners have described today’s decision to approve a second runway at Gatwick Airport, subject to changes to some of the planning conditions, as bad economics and ‘totally incompatible with the single biggest threat to our countryside’ – the growing climate crisis.

Transport Secretary of State Heidi Alexander indicated in a Written Ministerial Statement on 27 February 2025 that she is ‘minded to approve’ the project, if changes are made to the ‘Development Control Order’ granting permission – with a final decision by October.

CPRE Sussex says arguments that airport expansion would boost the economy are flawed. A recent report by the New Economics Foundation (NEF) found expanding UK airports will not deliver serious economic growth.

The charity also says a second runway at Gatwick will put pressure on local housing affordability at a time when neighbouring Crawley has already declared a housing emergency.

Director Paul Steedman said: “The second runway is bad economics, bad for local people, bad for the countryside and disastrous for efforts to fight climate change. We are hugely disappointed that the evidence-based arguments against this expansion, and the concerns of residents, have been ignored. However, despite this setback, we will continue to fight for the health of the Sussex countryside and its residents.”

CPRE Sussex says Gatwick Airport expansion makes achieving net zero targets almost impossible and taxpayers, farmers and homeowners will be left footing the bill for dealing with the impacts of climate breakdown.

A second runway will also lead to increased air and noise pollution, risking the health and wellbeing of residents and blighting the Sussex countryside.

Mr Steedman said: “This incomprehensible decision is a blow to anyone who wants to protect Sussex – and the wider world – from the misery of drought, flooding and extreme weather events. The Government’s own climate change committee has said there should be no net airport expansion in the UK.”

Read more about CPRE Sussex’s long-running fight against airport expansion [here](#).

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For press inquiries and interview opportunities call Paul Steedman on 07472448246

Notes for editors:

About CPRE Sussex

CPRE Sussex is shaping a greener future for Sussex. Our priorities are:

- Beautiful landscapes, rich in nature and greener towns and cities
- Countryside and green spaces which are accessible to all, enriching lives and health
- Sustainable development for thriving communities
- Effective responses to the climate emergency

We engage with decision makers, influencing them and challenging them to protect the Sussex countryside and green spaces. We inform on environmental issues and empower individuals and communities with robust evidence to defend and enhance the green spaces they love. We believe in collaborating with others to ensure a greener future for our county. We research and provide advice on planning issues. Together we can shape a greener future for Sussex.