



14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

FAO: Mr David Spencer and Mr Glen Rollings  
Examining Inspectors for Crawley Local Plan  
c/o Charlotte Glancy, Programme Officer  
80 Lavinia Way  
East Preston  
West Sussex  
BN16 1DD

Sent by email to: [bankssolutionsuk@gmail.com](mailto:bankssolutionsuk@gmail.com)

Dear Sirs,

**Crawley Local Plan 2024 – 2040 Examination  
Correspondence between Gatwick Airport Limited and Crawley Borough Council**

At the beginning of the hearing on Matter 4 (Issue3) held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023, Leading Counsel for Crawley Borough Council (CBC) raised a point in relation to Gatwick Airport's (GAL's) response to Inspector's MIQ – 4.21 which sought details of the engagement that had taken place during the preparation of the Plan. GAL's MIQ response stated that there had been no engagement by CBC with GAL on the implications of Gatwick Green and the land use requirements for the area East of Balcombe Road in connection with the construction of the southern runway. We acknowledge this position is factually incorrect and we sincerely apologise for this error. The email correspondence was placed into the Examination library on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (PS.EGSM.GA.19).

After the Matter 5 hearing held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023, GAL asked CBC to provide information on the engagement that had taken place. CBC confirmed the engagement had taken place in August 2020. GAL searched their email system that evening and became aware that an email exchange had taken place in relation to the Draft Local Plan (2021) (Regulation 19) on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2020 and before the formal public consultation started in January 2021. Email correspondence was then provided by CBC to GAL on the morning of Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 and at the beginning of the Matter 4 (Issue 3) hearing Mr Norwood accepted that emails had been received and a one hour Teams meeting took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 before the Regulation 19 Draft Local Plan was presented to the CBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on



23 November 2020. The meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 was simply a verbal update from CBC and no detailed plans / master planning arrangements were discussed.

GAL has since undertaken further searches of its email archive system and can also confirm that a draft Statement of Common Ground was provided to GAL on 20 January 2021. This was discussed with CBC at a meeting with GAL on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021. This was not discovered in our email archive when the initial search took place (after the hearing on the Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023) and again we apologise that we did not remember / recall this correspondence. GAL met virtually with CBC on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and prepared a position statement for that meeting which was presented to and also shared with CBC on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Whilst the email correspondence in the Examination Library (PS.EGSM.GA.19) refers to the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021, the email chain only goes up to 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Therefore, we are attaching GAL's presentation and email for completeness.

At the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021, both GAL and CBC acknowledged each other's positions and agreed that given the differences of view - common ground would not be reached and therefore we were unable to agree at the meeting a way forward on the draft statement of common ground. No further discussion or work on the statement of common ground was undertaken after 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Whilst there are no formal notes of this meeting the position outlined above in this paragraph has been agreed with CBC officers.

GAL accept that limited engagement took place with CBC officers prior to the Draft Local Plan becoming public at committee in November 2020. Whilst at the time GAL welcomed CBC had changed its previous position (from the previous Draft Local Plan published in January 2020 and the deletion of the then proposed Policy SD3 North Crawley Area Action Plan) and that CBC accepted they were required to safeguard land for the future possible expansion of the Airport, specific details of the Gatwick Green allocation only became public once the plan was published. GAL therefore made its detailed views known to CBC at the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and the statement of common ground was not progressed.

I trust the above helps to clarify matters.

Yours faithfully

**Tim Norwood**  
Gatwick Airport Ltd