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***Environment & Infrastructure
Directorate
(Spatial Planning Team)***

Sent by email to: airport.proposals@airports.gsi.gov.uk

19 April 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

Response to Discussion Paper: Aviation Connectivity and the Economy

The County Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Airports Commission's paper on Aviation Connectivity and the Economy. I am pleased to set out our officer comments, as agreed with our Cabinet Member for Transport and the Environment, below.

Although neither Heathrow Airport nor Gatwick Airport are within Surrey's county boundary, they both benefit Surrey's economy enormously. Surrey's economy is larger than any other local authority area outside of London worth £28 billion in 2008. The following points are worth considering in the Surrey local economic context:

- In 2011, 2.04 million terminating air passengers at Heathrow came from Surrey (6% of all passengers) and 2.22 million at Gatwick were from Surrey (9% of all passengers) Source: Passenger Survey Report (CAA 2011) via the Rail Strategy.
- According to the Heathrow Airport Employment Survey, in 2008/09 almost 9000 Surrey residents worked at Heathrow Airport (about 12% of the total Heathrow workforce). These workers come mainly from Spelthorne, Runnymede and Surrey Heath. 77% of Heathrow employees commute by car. Source: Surrey Rail Strategy
- At Gatwick, the Employment Survey indicates that about 14% of employees live in Surrey (about 3200). 65% of Gatwick employees commute by car. Source: Surrey Rail Strategy

Surrey County Council supports the Government's objective to achieve long term economic growth

and recognises the considerable economic benefits that strong international connectivity brings to Surrey and to the rest of the country. We would therefore be concerned from both a national and local economic perspective if the existing airport capacity at either Heathrow or Gatwick were to be reduced.

We support the need for increased connectivity with BRICS and CIVETS countries where the global economy is expected to grow most rapidly as this is likely to provide positive economic benefits to the county and local businesses. This includes greater coverage of cities within these countries and additional services in line with other major European airports. In addition to the BRICS and CIVETS, the IMF also highlights the US, Japan, South Korea, Germany and Mexico as countries likely to see strong economic growth. However, as Heathrow's capacity is constrained, increasing the number of services to the BRICS and CIVETS could potentially impact on connectivity to regional UK airports. We would suggest that the potential impact of any loss of regional connectivity should be assessed.

The discussion document sets out in para 2.1 that accessibility to airports from a passenger's origin or destination is an important factor when accessing connectivity. A key concern for the County Council as the Local Highway Authority is the existing poor surface access to Heathrow Airport and the related congestion on the surrounding road network. It is acknowledged that the main focus of the discussion paper is on international connectivity, however, the need for improved local surface access to Heathrow and Gatwick Airports needs to be taken into consideration when assessing connectivity as a whole. The Government's Aviation Policy Framework recognises that surface access traffic congestion has significant local environmental impacts and that high quality, efficient and reliable road and rail access to airports contributes greatly to the experience of passengers, freight operators and people working at the airport. In addressing the issue of local surface access and traffic congestion in more detail the Airports Commission would more fully support the Aviation Policy Framework objective for "working with airport operators, transport operators, local authorities and LEPs to improve surface access to airports across the country".

We hope you find these comments useful. If you require further information please contact Amy Tawton by email at amy.tawton@surreycc.gov.uk, or by phone on 0208 213 2507.

Yours sincerely



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