

ECONOMY

DECISIONS made by the Lead Cabinet Member for Economy, Councillor R Simmons on 12 November 2013 at County Hall, Lewes.

Councillor Hodges spoke on item 4 and 5 (see minute 8 and 9)

Councillor St Pierre spoke on item 4 and 5 (see minute 8 and 9)

5. MINUTES

5.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 14 August 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

6. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

6.1 None.

7. REPORT

7.1 Copies of the reports referred to in the minutes below are contained in the minute book.

8. RESPONSE TO THE AIRPORTS COMMISSION ON LONG TERM PROPOSAL FOR ADDRESSING CAPACITY ISSUES AT GATWICK AIRPORT

8.1 Councillor Simmons considered a report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport which considered the submission to the Airports Commission on Gatwick Airport Ltd's proposals for addressing aviation capacity issues in the longer term.

DECISIONS

8.2 **RESOLVED** - To (1) support Gatwick Airport Ltd's submission to the Airports Commission for a proposed second runway at Gatwick Airport with the appropriate improvements to multi modal surface access infrastructure to support any expansion; and

(2) advise the Airports Commission accordingly.

Reasons

8.3 The proposal for a second runway at Gatwick Airport will generate significant benefits for East Sussex in supporting economic growth and job creation in the County. Therefore, Gatwick Airport Ltd's submission to the Airports Commission for a second runway to address long term aviation capacity in the south East should be supported and the Airports Commission advised accordingly.

9. RAIL STRATEGY AND RAIL ACTION PLAN FOR EAST SUSSEX

9.1 Councillor Simmons considered a report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport which considered a Rail Strategy for improving the rail infrastructure serving East Sussex and supporting the County's economic growth and an accompanying Rail Action Plan which identified the County Council's current priorities for rail infrastructure improvements.

DECISION

9.2 RESOLVED – (1) to approve the attached Rail Strategy and Action Plan which will be used to influence future investment decisions by the rail industry, Government and Local Enterprise Partnerships on rail infrastructure serving East Sussex; and

(2) continue to work with and seek support from our neighbouring authorities to lobby the rail industry for improved rail journey times on the routes between London and Hastings, Bexhill, Eastbourne, Lewes, Seaford & Uckfield.

Reasons

9.3 Improving railway infrastructure in East Sussex will increase capacity, reduce journey times and enable access to jobs, education and training, all of which would contribute to the delivery of the Government, Local Enterprise Partnerships and County council objectives of supporting economic growth.

9.4 The outcomes of the consultation, scheme appraisal process and views of business has identified firstly, the electrification and dual tracking of the Ashford – Hastings line and secondly, electrification and dual tracking of the Uckfield – London line between Uckfield and Hurst Green as the priorities for investment in rail infrastructure in East Sussex. These priorities will be used by the County Council to influence the investment decisions of the rail industry, Government and the Local Enterprise Partnerships.