

## Rother District Council

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to:</b>                   | Cabinet  |
| <b>Date:</b>                        | 27 July 2020   |
| <b>Title:</b>                       | Support to the Aviation Industry   |
| <b>Report of:</b>                   | Malcolm Johnston   |
| <b>Cabinet Member:</b>              | Councillor Oliver  |
| <b>Ward(s):</b>                     | All  |
| <b>Purpose of Report:</b>           | To consider approving the Motion received from the GMB in support of the aviation industry on behalf of the Council.   |
| <b>Decision Type:</b>               | Non-Key  |
| <b>Officer</b>                      |  |
| <b>Recommendation(s):</b>           | It be <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Motion attached at Appendix 1 be approved.   |
| <b>Reasons for Recommendations:</b> | To provide support to the aviation section as many local residents are employed at Gatwick airport which is a key part of the economic future within the south east. |

---

### Introduction

1. The Leader of the Council has received a request from the GMB, Southern Region to consider and approve the Motion as set out at Appendix 1. Whilst such a Motion would ordinarily be considered by full Council, as the next scheduled meeting is not until 21 September, it was considered appropriate to put before Cabinet who could consider the Motion on behalf of the Council.

### Detail

2. This Motion has been circulated to council leaders in response to the crisis faced in the aviation industry, not only at the major airports hubs such as Heathrow and Gatwick but also at the many other regional airports as well. This crisis not only threatens the jobs of staff employed directly by the airline companies but also the many thousands of jobs at the airports and in the aviation sector's supply chain.
3. Recently, many companies in the sector have announced whole scale redundancy despite having been supported over the last three months through the Government's job retention scheme.
4. The GMB are hopeful that the Council will consider debating and passing this Motion and follow this up by contacting and lobbying both the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak and the Secretary of State for Transport, Grant

Shapps, asking them to urgently develop with all the stakeholders, including the trade unions, an industry wide package of support that protects jobs and employment before shareholders.

5. Covid-19 has placed the whole of the aviation industry in an unprecedented crisis, which will put the livelihoods of thousands of workers in jeopardy, with the inevitable knock on effect for the economy of communities that rely on this sector for employment and the travelling public.

## Conclusion

6. Cabinet is asked to consider approving the Motion set out Appendix 1 and lobbying Government Ministers, as appropriate.

## Implications

### Financial Implications

None.

### Legal Implications

None.

### Human Resources Implications

None.

## Environmental

7. The environmental impact of aviation is significant and whilst recognising and supporting the employment provided we would encourage the industry to work with Government to reduce this impact through the development of more fuel efficient aircraft and a clear commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from airport operations.

| Other Implications | Applies? | Other Implications       | Applies? |
|--------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|
| Human Rights       | No       | Equalities and Diversity | No       |
| Crime and Disorder | No       | Consultation             | No       |
| Environmental      | Yes      | Access to Information    | No       |
| Sustainability     | No       | Exempt from publication  | No       |
| Risk Management    | No       |                          |          |

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Executive Director:        | Malcolm Johnston                       |
| Proper Officer:            | Malcolm Johnston, Head of Paid Service |
| Report Contact Officer:    | -                                      |
| e-mail address:            | -                                      |
| Appendices:                | 1 – GMB Motion                         |
| Relevant Previous Minutes: | None.                                  |
| Background Papers:         | None.                                  |
| Reference Documents:       | None.                                  |

### Motion

Rother District Council is deeply concerned at the effects the Covid-19 pandemic is having on the airline industry, which employs tens of thousands of people across London and the South East.

Rother District Council calls on Her Majesty's Government to do all in its power to protect this vital sector of the British economy and specifically:

- To extend the 80% furlough scheme for 12 months for workers in the aviation industry but with the possibility to 'taper' where necessary.
- The Government must recognise the vital role aviation workers continue to play in ensuring food and medical supplies still enter the country.
- The Government must also recognise the damaging effects the collapse of the aviation sector will have on the economy across London and the South East and must commit to supporting the sector in its hour of need, through an economic package that helps both airports and the wider supply chain to survive without redundancies.
- Any state aid must come with guarantees to protect jobs before shareholders and with environmental safeguards to create a greener industry. State aid discussions should not take place behind closed doors. Trade unions must be involved in those negotiations and powerful airline companies should not be at the front of the queue (the supply chain and regional airports are just as important).
- As the sector starts to reopen Trade Unions Health and Safety representatives must be involved in all stages of the risk assessment process, to ensure appropriate levels of PPE are provided without delay to ALL aviation staff and travelling members of the public.
- The Government must continue to work with and meet the trade unions representing all transport workers to ensure front line transport workers' voices are brought to the fore.
- Whilst recognising and supporting the employment provided, the environmental impact of aviation is significant and we would encourage the industry to work with Government to reduce this impact through the development of more fuel efficient aircraft and a clear commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from airport operations.