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PRESS RELEASE: Gatwick Airport expansion bid will worsen affordable housing crisis

Second runway bid will increase pressure on affordable housing stock in surrounding districts.

A Sussex-based charity says Gatwick Airport's bid for a second runway will further worsen the surrounding area's affordable housing crisis.

CPRE Sussex was responding to a question on affordable housing posed by planning inspectors at the ongoing inquiry into the airport's expansion. It said the question of where new workers, many in low-income roles, could be housed was under-explored in the proposal.

The charity described this as a "critical issue" when many surrounding districts are already experiencing an affordable housing crisis. In February, Crawley District Council declared a housing emergency.

CPRE Sussex director Paul Steedman said: "Local residents are already struggling to afford housing costs and there is very limited new affordable housing being created. Gatwick's bid for a second runway is likely to make pressures on housing affordability even worse and increase pressure for development on our precious rural landscapes. At the very least, a credible modelling of the impact on local housing markets must be shared, covering affordability and development pressure on the surrounding authorities."

CPRE Sussex also highlighted recent data on homelessness and affordable housing completions. In 2022-23 Crawley, Horsham, Lewes, Mid Sussex, Mole Valley, Reigate and Bansted, Tandridge, Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells, reported combined homelessness figures of more than 1,500.

A total of 1,084 affordable homes were completed in 2021-22, of which just 197 homes were for social rent. In 2023, there were 5,874 people on the social housing waiting lists for the six districts which provided data.

[Read the CPRE Sussex response in full and access the housing data tables here.](#)

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For press inquiries and interview opportunities call Sheena Campbell on 07709 354924.

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.