

Embargoed until 10.00am 11 February 2021

## Gatwick to implement charging for vehicles using its North Terminal forecourt from 8 March 2021

- Free drop off or pick up will be available at the airport's long stay car park.
- The new revenue stream will provide further protection for jobs at the airport.
- Initiative will help deter a car-led recovery alongside reduction in traffic congestion and emissions at Gatwick and the surrounding areas.
- Blue badge holders will be exempt from the charge [www.gatwickairport.com/dropoff](http://www.gatwickairport.com/dropoff).

Gatwick Airport can confirm, following an initial announcement of plans for the scheme in October 2020, that on 8 March 2021 it will introduce a £5 charge for vehicles which drop off passengers directly outside its North Terminal, where all flights are currently operating to and from. The charge will be extended to the South Terminal forecourt at a later date. The initiative will help to reduce traffic congestion and emissions for the surrounding area as well as being a deterrent for a car-led recovery once more regular travel resumes post the COVID-19 national lockdown. The charge will also create a vital new revenue stream for the airport, providing further protection for local jobs as the negative economic impacts of the pandemic continue.

Anyone who does not wish to pay the charge will be able to drop-off or pick-up passengers in the airport's long-stay car parks with two hours free parking and a free shuttle bus to the terminal. Alternatively, passengers can arrive by public transport, taking advantage of the significant improvements to train and bus services to the airport in recent years.

By encouraging other forms of journey to the airport, the charge will help Gatwick continue to meet its commitment to reduce 'Kiss and Fly' - the least sustainable type of journey to the airport as it involves two return car journeys – and may contribute to a reduction in traffic at Gatwick and surrounding local areas. In 2019 around 15% of airport journeys were 'Kiss and Fly'. Reducing the airport's environmental impact continues to be an important focus and Gatwick will make a contribution from the revenue into Gatwick's existing Sustainable Transport Fund.

**Jonathan Pollard, Chief Commercial Officer**, said: *"It is no secret that the airport is going through the most difficult period in its history and we have little choice but to explore new revenue streams that will help us recover from the COVID-19 crisis and continue as an important provider of economic prosperity and jobs across the region."*

*"This new scheme will also encourage passengers to consider more sustainable transport options, including taking advantage of our excellent public transport services. We plan to use this charge to build on these services by using a proportion of the revenue raised to support new sustainable transport initiatives, in addition to our ongoing project to build a new £150 million airport train station which is progressing well."*

The charge will be £5 for 10 minutes, and £1 for each additional minute up to 20 minutes. The maximum charge will be £25 and the maximum length of stay 30 mins.

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The charging system and enforcement will be managed using convenient barrier free technology and by Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras. Passengers using the system will be able to pay online using a range of payment methods including credit or debit card, Google and Apple Pay. Marshals will also be on hand in the forecourts to assist passengers. National Car Parks (EUK) Ltd has been appointed Gatwick's operations partner on forecourt charging and will support all of the payment and penalty notice process for the scheme.

Blue badge holders will be able to access the forecourt free of charge by registering their details ([www.gatwickairport.com/dropoff](http://www.gatwickairport.com/dropoff)) up to three months in advance before arriving at the airport.

When the charge is introduced for the South Terminal, at a later date, local commuters living within a limited number of postcode sectors close to the airport (RH6 0, RH6 9, RH11 0) with no public transport access will be allowed two visits per day to use the train station by paying an annual £50 charge. Residents in these areas wishing register with the Local Commuter Scheme should visit [www.gatwickairport.com/dropoff](http://www.gatwickairport.com/dropoff) for information on how to register.

A Red Route system is being introduced across the airport campus to indicate that stopping to park, load or unload, board or alight from a vehicle is prohibited. Revenue raised through Red Route fines will also be used to fund sustainable transport initiatives under the guidance of the airport's Transport Steering Group, which includes external representatives from local authorities and transport operators.

The airport already benefits from strong public transport links, with recent improvements enabling a train leaving for London every three to four minutes – as regular as tube services – and a £4 million upgrade to an airport bus interchange benefitting the 3 million people who use it each year. Pre-COVID-19 pandemic, around 650 local services arrived/ departed the bus interchange each week, many of them 24-hour services.

Gatwick also remains committed to its investment in the ongoing £150 million project to upgrade the airport's train station, which will make connections to other destinations easier by doubling the size of the station concourse, adding five new lifts and eight escalators to improve passenger flow, and widening two platforms to reduce overcrowding.

For more information on Gatwick's forecourt charging system please visit [www.gatwickairport.com/dropoff](http://www.gatwickairport.com/dropoff)

**ENDS**

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## **About Gatwick Airport**

Gatwick is the UK's second largest airport and flies a range of both short and long-haul point-to-point services. The airport is a vital piece of the UK's national infrastructure and is also a major driver for both the regional and national economies.

In 2019, a new long-term partnership was formed with VINCI Airports who purchased a 50.01% stake in the airport. This partnership saw Gatwick Airport integrate into the network of VINCI Airports, the leading private airport operator in the world, which manages the development and operation of 45 airports located in Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, France, Japan, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. Served by more than 250 airlines, VINCI Airports' network handled 255 million passengers in 2019. Through its expertise as a comprehensive integrator, VINCI Airports develops, finances, builds and operates airports, leveraging its investment capability and know-how to optimise the management and performance of airports and carry out extensions and upgrades. In 2019, its annual revenue for managed activities amounted to €4.9 billion, for a consolidated revenue of €2.6 billion.

Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP), which manages the remaining 49.99% interest in Gatwick, is an independent infrastructure investor that makes equity investments in high quality infrastructure assets in the energy, transport and water/waste sectors. GIP has US\$70 billion of Assets under Management. Its 41 portfolio companies operate in over 50 countries.

For more information on VINCI Airports please visit [www.vinci-airports.com](http://www.vinci-airports.com) and for more information on GIP please visit <http://global-infra.com>

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