

# Runway dithering will cost us £214bn

INDECISION over where to put a new airport runway could end up costing Britain £214 billion by the end of this century, analysts claim.

Gatwick and Heathrow both want permission to build a new runway in the face of intense opposition from residents, politicians and environmentalists worried about noise, traffic and air pollution.

But the UK will lose up to one per cent of GDP without

by **DOMINIC YEATMAN**

an extra runway to provide direct links with more cities overseas, the Independent Transport Commission (ITC) claims. 'Further indecision, or worse still, no decision in favour of increasing airport capacity in

the south-east by the government will lead to a loss of foreign direct investment,' said ITC commissioner Stephen Hickey. The government is waiting for the Airports Commission to publish its report later this month before making a decision.

A third runway at Heathrow is most likely, but faces opposition from senior Tories including London Mayor Boris Johnson.

