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## GATCOM 22 OCTOBER 2015

### KEY MESSAGES AND OUTCOMES FROM MEETING

The agenda and papers considered at the meeting are available on GATCOM's website at [www.gatcom.org.uk](http://www.gatcom.org.uk)

#### GATCOM STEERING GROUP – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's report of the GATCOM Steering Group meeting was received.

- **CAA's review of the airspace change process** - the CAA has commissioned consultants, Helios, to conduct a review of the CAA's process to be followed to implement changes to the use of airspace (primarily the CAA's CAP 725 guidance note). The scope of the review is to assess the CAA's current airspace change process, elicit, from external stakeholders, their views on the strengths and weaknesses of the current process (but not the merits or otherwise of individual airspace change decisions) and to identify any material weaknesses in the process and what improvements could address those weaknesses
- GATCOM's Lead Member for Noise attended the workshop hosted by Helios for community representatives. Among the 19 community representatives present there were three from Birmingham, eight from Heathrow and eight from Gatwick. Helios reported that it had received 79 completed surveys 50 of which were from 'the community', 18 from 'change sponsors' and 11 from 'general aviation'. Comments raised at the session indicated that there is much dissatisfaction about the current process and that trust and transparency needs to be built throughout the industry and all stakeholders and that there needs to be a better engagement with all parties in the process so that the regulator can be seen to be divorced from the sponsorship and CAA process.
- **Effective Communication with local communities** - GAL's renewed focus to enhance communications with its neighbours close to the airport and further afield to date was commended. GAL will now review the success of its communication strategy, the issues raised, and will report back to the GATCOM Steering Group on the next steps.
- **House of Commons Transport Committee call for evidence on Surface Access to Airports** – GATCOM's submission was noted.

#### GATWICK ARRIVALS REVIEW

- Sir Roy McNulty, Chairman GAL confirmed that the scope of the review has been expanded to include an examination of both easterly and westerly arrivals. GAL wished to have a fresh look at all the issues and was fully committed to findings ways to improve the situation with fresh ideas for a positive change. GAL wished for the review to be independent and transparent involving all parties including communities, airlines, NATS and the DfT. This was welcomed by GATCOM.
- Bo Redeborn, Independent Consultant leading the Review Team, confirmed that the review was looking for short term improvements for arrivals into Gatwick both in terms of how to mitigate the impact and in terms of maintaining efficiency. He highlighted the current use of airspace in the south east of England and emphasised that communities would still see and hear aircraft but there may be fresh ideas to manage/mitigate the impact and regain goodwill. He outlined the work that had undertaken to date:

- Discussions with a wide range of interested parties commenced during August. No requests to engage in the review had yet been declined.
- Evidence gathering had begun including additional evidence from the CAA, DfT, and NATS.
- The review was now moving to the phase of identifying possible options. All options will be addressed and explanations will be given on why ideas were not pursued and justification given for possible solutions.
- The Review Team was also looking at establishing better relationships with local communities and how complaints are handled by the airport.
- The review was expected to be completed either end of December 2015 or early January 2016.
- Reference was made to the negative effect on health arising from the distress caused by aircraft noise disturbance and the need for more in depth research on how mitigation could be used in a meaningful way. It was confirmed that a detailed investigation into the impact to health was outside the scope of the review.
- The NATS representative confirmed that they were stakeholders in the review and will support the team as the review progresses.
- Bo Redeborn will present the outcome of his review to the next GATCOM meeting, and if the timetable permits for an overview to be given to the GATCOM Steering Group at the beginning of January 2016.

## **GATWICK DEPARTURE ROUTES - P-RNAV IMPLEMENTATION**

### **CAA Post Implementation Review (PIR) on the implementation of P-RNAV on Gatwick's departure routes**

- The CAA's presentation on the outcome of the PIR was withdrawn from the agenda as the PIR had not been published by the time of the meeting. Below is the statement received from the CAA:

*"Independently of Gatwick Airport Limited (GAL) the CAA has undertaken a comprehensive Post Implementation Review (PIR) of the airport's RNAV replication of its existing conventional departure routes. The Review commenced one year after the replications implementation with a request for performance information from GAL and a means by which members of the public could submit their thoughts. Considering the level of interest and community feedback, the review and subsequent report have taken longer than originally anticipated. We have kept interested parties updated on the progress of our review via our website. However, the full report is not yet complete and we hope you will understand that the CAA will finish our thorough and robust process as soon as possible. This will properly reflect the input we have received, alongside our technical assessment of the data provided by the airports and airlines, before presenting it to a wider audience"*

- GAL expressed disappointment about the continuing delay in the publication of the PIR. The CAA has written to Stewart Wingate, CEO summarising the outcome of the review which the CAA has asked not to be shared with other parties until the PIR is published. As expected a minor modification to Route 4 (26 LAM departure SID) has been identified and the expectation is that GAL makes a change to that route (see below for more detail). GAL expects the publication of the PIR imminently but has sought the agreement of the CAA to commence formal discussions on the proposed solution to Route 4 ahead of the PIR publication.
- GATCOM expressed concern about the on-going delay of the publication of the PIR. This further added to the mistrust amongst local communities about the way in which airspace at Gatwick is managed and used and the (inaccurate) perception of communities is that GAL is holding up the process. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to the Chief Executive of the CAA –[see attached](#).

### **26 LAM departure SID (Route 4)**

- Working with its independent airspace designers, NATS and residents' groups, GAL has developed a possible solution to bring aircraft back into the noise preferential route (NPR) until the required altitude is reached after which aircraft will be vectored off to carry on their routing.

- GAL will present the proposed solution to the CAA for consideration. If the proposed solution is acceptable to the CAA, GAL will undertake a local public consultation for a period of 12 weeks. Depending on the outcome of that consultation, GAL proposes to trial the proposed new departure SID before any decision is taken to introduce the change on a permanent basis. It was hoped that the solution could be implemented by March/April 2016.
- GAL confirmed that 26 LAM departure route was the only departure route to be looked at as aircraft were flying outside the Noise Preferential Route (NPR). There are no route related issues on the other P-RNAV SIDs.
- Members enquired whether the proposed trial could be undertaken at the same time as the local consultation. GAL advised that past experience has shown that if a trial is undertaken at the same time as the consultation it often results in further trials and subsequent consultations being required. GAL wished to see a solution progressed as quickly as possible to address community concerns.

#### **NOISE EXPOSURE CONTOURS 2014**

- The DfT has published the results of noise monitoring at Gatwick during the summer period of 2014 – [click here](#) to see report.
- The results showed an increase, day and night, in the noise footprint attributable to Gatwick Airport, resulting from an increase in movements, a change in the fleet mix and a revised population database. It should be noted that the night contours cover an eight hour period and is not therefore the same as the period covered by the night flights regime.
- Reference was made to the ADNID trial and whether this had affected the increase in the noise contours. It was confirmed that the 57 dBA day time contour in 2014 enlarged slightly to the south-west of the airport near Rusper and 48 dBA night time contour had slightly expanded between Kingsfold and Rusper both of which were a result of the use of the ADNID trial route over the summer period.
- Reference was also made to the SESAR delivery plan which had included reference to the future use of the ADNID route. GAL confirmed that it had no plans at the current time to proceed with the ADNID route.
- There was concern about the increase in the number of people affected by aircraft noise and it was highlighted that with the growth in Gatwick's traffic over the past year the noise climate, particularly at night, was unlikely to improve this year. A member requested GAL/DfT to address this through considering reduction in operations between 0000hrs and 0200hrs through better scheduling of aircraft slots.

#### **DFT AIRCRAFT NOISE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ANMAC)**

Tim May, DfT summarised the main items of discussion of the recent meeting of ANMAC:

- Consideration of policy developments with a view to consultation next year.
- The recommendations of the Airports Commission in respect of the independent aviation noise authority and the suggested noise levy
- The steeper approaches trial at Heathrow. GATCOM's lead member for noise highlighted the need to carefully consider the noise impacts of steeper approaches and the timing of lowering the aircraft undercarriage
- A320 retrofit programme. Like easyJet, British Airways has also put in place a retrofit fit programme for its Airbus A320 aircraft
- The development of a noise toolkit by the CAA to address the concentration of flightpaths and respite routes
- Concerns about Flightradar 24 App which provides misleading data in respect of aircraft height and what can be done to explain the limitations of its use.

#### **FLIGHT PERFORMANCE TEAM (FPT) REPORT**

GAL reported on the key highlights over the period April to June 2015:

- The percentage of go-arounds was at a three year low with 0.37% of arrivals performing go-arounds. The main causes were runway occupied or unstable approaches. GAL emphasised that there are well established standard procedures for go-arounds and airlines are actively encouraged to fly to the best possible environmental standards. However safety is always the number one priority.
- Reference was made to the lack of notification of runway maintenance programme. GAL would circulate details to the Secretariat for onward circulation to members.

- The need to have a greater understanding of noise complaints, their locations, population sizes, times of day and week and the issues. GAL would refer the matter to NATMAG for consideration.
- GAL was asked to publicise more clearly the capability of the CASPER system to record more than one complaint per person per day. The Arrivals Review team was also asked to consider the current complaints handling policy.

### **NOISE AND TRACK MONITORING ADVISORY GROUP (NATMAG)**

The key messages from the meeting of NATMAG held on 26 November were noted. Members were encouraged to look at and use the Gatwick Casper Noise Lab facility available on GAL's website – [click here](#) to see.

### **AIRPORT COMMENTARY**

The Chief Executive Officer's commentary on activity and performance of Gatwick over the previous quarter was received.

- **Traffic Growth** - Gatwick has seen continued growth and achieved a 5.2% year on year increase in traffic with passenger numbers at record levels, increased traffic movements and higher aircraft load factors. It is likely that Gatwick will handle 41 million passengers this financial year.
- **New Routes** - Several new routes have been announced or launched since the last meeting including BA's three weekly direct service to Lima, Peru, Westjet's six new routes to Canada from May next year and new short haul routes to Porto, Portugal, Friedrichshafen, Germany and Vienna, Austria.
- **Gatwick Station** – the funding agreement between Network Rail, DfT and GAL has been completed.
- **Capital Investment** – totalled £53.2m during the quarter. Pier 5 has opened and Pier 1 works are progressing well. The major works in the North Terminal are also progressing well and the first phase of the new self-service check-in/bag drop area was recently opened.
- **Section 106 agreement** – GAL, West Sussex County Council and Crawley Borough Council are in the process of signing the agreement. The existing provisions (unless time expired) have been rolled forward including financial payments to the end of the agreement. There are also some new provisions:
  - air quality – provided the necessary standards have been promulgated, GAL will participate in a project to quantify residential exposure within the Horley AQMA to aviation derived ultrafine particles and pay 50% of the costs of such a project to Reigate and Banstead Borough Council.
  - noise - GAL to undertake an annual programme of engagements to explain and educate local authority members, members of GATCOM and other invited guests (including local residents from affected communities) about noise issues and airspace change. This to include a number of localised seminars and a major annual seminar if requested by West Sussex County Council or Crawley Borough Council.
  - surface access – the number of passes using the Povey Cross entrance reduced to 375 (from 675).
  - development - GAL to have regard to the impact of flooding and design such development, and where necessary, include mitigation measures to avoid any harmful impacts on surrounding communities.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gatwick Local Authorities will also be updated. However Kent County Council has declined an invitation to be party to the MoU.

### **GATWICK RELATED PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Crawley Borough Council's report on planning applications determined and outstanding in respect of Gatwick was noted.

### **PASSENGER ADVISORY GROUP (PAG)**

- GATCOM noted the important work of PAG and supported the efforts of PAG in seeking improvements to the provision of information for passengers arriving on flights at Gatwick in landside areas.

- During the Christmas and New Year period, scheduled rail improvements are due to take place affecting many services to and from Gatwick. Network Rail is undertaking a major renewal of a junction just north of Purley station that will affect services into Gatwick. The works will commence at 2200hrs on 24<sup>th</sup> December and run through until 0400 hrs on 4th January. The following services will be affected:
  - No Gatwick Express service
  - No trains between South Croydon and Redhill – train diversions and rail replacements will be in place.
  - The Thameslink service will be terminating at East Croydon
  - Southern service will be running to East Croydon / East Grinstead with connecting rail replacement buses or alternative rail services from London Victoria to Gatwick via Horsham

All GATCOM members are encouraged to inform their communities of the planned disruption to railway services during the Christmas and New Year period.

- “GatwickConnects” is a new initiative which is designed to help passengers who self-book and connect flights via Gatwick. “GatwickConnects” is now available online. GAL is seeking to increase the number of airlines and routes signed up to the service. GAL was asked to provide an update on the success of this initiative at a future meeting.

### **LOCAL PROCUREMENT – UPDATE**

GAL presented an overview of its procurement strategy and the way in which it encourages local businesses to tender for work. In 2014/15 GAL spent £81m with local suppliers (£17m increase on previous year) and c.£24m via local second and third tier suppliers engaged through Gatwick key suppliers. There are several avenues through which GAL advertises procurement opportunities:

- Tenders Electronic Daily (TED): <http://ted.europa.eu/TED/main/HomePage>.
- Delta E-Sourcing: [www.delta-esourcing.com](http://www.delta-esourcing.com)
- Gatwick website: <http://www.gatwickairport.com/business-community/airlines-business/business/procurement>
- Subcontracting via Capital Framework Suppliers

GATCOM members were encouraged to promote the procurement opportunities amongst their communities. The Coast to Capital Local Economic Partnership indicated its wish to discuss the opportunities in more detail with GAL on how to help promote the opportunities available. The presentation slides are [attached](#).

### **AIRPORTS COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT - UPDATE**

- GAL has continued with its weekly meetings with the DfT but these are now coming to an end. A new Cabinet Committee, the Economic Affairs (Airports) Sub-Committee, has been established to consider matters relating to airport capacity in the South East of England in the light of the Airports Commission's report. GAL advised that the DfT is to produce a statement of principles describing each runway scheme and the scheme promoters' commitments to deliver their scheme and the infrastructure to be provided including the date of delivery and funders. The Government's response to the Airports Commission's final report is expected by the end of 2015.
- GAL has responded to Sir Howard Davies' letter to the Secretary of State for Transport which is available on GAL's website – [click here](#) to see.
- GAL was thanked for meeting with local businesses in the Lowfield Heath area to provide an overview of the implications of the Gatwick scheme. Reference was also made to the economic and environmental implications for Gatwick should GAL's bid be unsuccessful. GAL advised that this point did not feature in the DfT's the statement of principles. It was a point raised in GATCOM's letter to the Secretary of State for Transport.
- Reference was also made to the funding for a second runway and that the airline community was opposed to any form of pre-funding. GAL advised that there would need to be some form of pre-funding but that this would need to be discussed with airlines.
- The Environmental and Amenities Groups representative advised that the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign had produced a document making its own comparisons on the demand and costs of the Gatwick scheme – [click here](#) to see
- GAL has responded to the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee's inquiry into the implications for Government commitments on carbon emissions, air quality and noise

should the Airport Commission's recommendation of a third runway at Heathrow Airport be adopted. GAL is also considering its response to Defra's current consultation seeking views on draft plans to improve air quality (deadline for submissions is 6 November).

- Reference was made to rumours about GAL funding Heathrow anti expansion lobby groups. Stewart Wingate, CEO confirmed that to the best of his knowledge GAL was not funding anti Heathrow lobby groups.

#### **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2015/16**

The calendar of meetings for 2015/16 is as follows:

##### **GATCOM Steering Group**

Thursday 31 March 2016 at 10.00 a.m.  
Monday 27 June 2016 at 10.00 a.m.  
Thursday 29 September 2016 at 10.00 a.m.  
Thursday 5 January 2017 at 10.00 a.m.

##### **Passenger Advisory Group**

Wednesday 13 April 2016 at 1.30 p.m.  
Wednesday 29 June 2016 at 1.30 p.m.  
Thursday 6 October 2016 at 1.30 p.m.  
Thursday 12 January 2017 at 1.30 p.m.

##### **GATCOM**

Thursday 28 April 2016 at 2.00 p.m.  
Thursday 14 July 2016 at 2.00 p.m.  
Thursday 20 October 2016 at 2.00 p.m. (N.B. Annual Tour in morning)  
Thursday 26 January 2017 at 2.00 p.m.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting will take place on Thursday 28 January 2016 at 2.00 p.m.

**Paula Street  
Secretariat**