

GATCOM 28 APRIL 2016

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

GATCOM STEERING GROUP – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

- **Night Flights Regime** - the DfT is expected to launch the first stage consultation as part of the review of the night flights regime for Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted Airports in the near future. The first stage consultation will not contain any proposals for the next regime but will be a call for evidence. It is likely to be a six weeks consultation period. The stage two consultation is likely to be issued in October/November 2016 and will at that time set out proposals for the next regime. The Chairman encouraged all interested parties to respond to the consultations.
- **CAA Consultation - Issues Affecting Passengers' Access to UK Airports: A Review Of Surface Access** – as the closing date for comments was 22 April the GATCOM Steering Group agreed on behalf of GATCOM a [response](#) to the CAA's consultation "CAP 1364 - Consultation on issues affecting passengers' access to UK airports: A review of surface access at UK airports"
- **Landing Charges: Environmental Differentials** - Following a question raised at the last GATCOM meeting about Gatwick's landing charges and environmental differentials, the Steering Group considered the current schedule of landing charges. GAL has already identified a number of improvements to the structure of the charges but the Steering Group was disappointed that the zero charge at night still applied. GAL has agreed to feed this concern into the discussions with airlines when the schedule of charges is reviewed again later in the year.
- **Effective Communication with Local Communities** - In 2016, GAL will build on the relationships that had been established during the course of 2015 and will continue to engage with parishes through its "DD Community" email. Future editions of GAL's community newsletter "Gatwick AirMail" will be emailed to all parishes with hard copies available on request. To date over 1000 people have signed up to receive an email copy of the newsletter. GAL will provide a further update on the success of its programme of engagement and meetings with local communities and councils at a future GATCOM meeting.

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 6.8% year on year increase in traffic with passenger numbers at record levels and an extra 3,255 aircraft movements compared with the same period last year.
- **New Routes** - Several new routes have been announced or launched since the last meeting with long haul announcements to the far East – Tianjin Airlines starting a twice weekly operation on to Chongqing in June. British Airways will also introduce a new service to Cape

Town in November. New short haul routes by EasyJet and Wizz Air have also been added to the route network.

- **Runway Closure 29 February** – GAL gave an overview of the hydraulic fluid spillage on the main runway which caused the main runway to be closed for a period of 3 hours resulting in a number of flights being diverted or delayed. GAL and the airlines were praised for the efficient way in which the incident was managed. A review has been undertaken of the lessons learned.
- **Capital Investment** – Gatwick continues to deliver its investment programme totalling £65.4m over the last quarter. Pier 5 was officially opened on 1 February by Caroline Ansell MP and a phased handover of Pier 1 is to take place over the next few months. The North Terminal development programme is on course to be completed as planned with the works on the arrivals concourse being completed ahead of schedule in time for the busy peak summer period.
- **Airline moves** – Gatwick has been working with airlines on a phased plan for the EasyJet, Virgin Atlantic and British Airways moves scheduled to take place over three nights at the end of January 2017.
- **Security Post Brussels** – following the tragic events in Brussels there has been no increase in the UK Security Threat Level from international terrorism. GAL is aligned to other EU airports and is in close communication with the DfT to ensure the landside security measures remain robust and relevant.
- **Core Service Standards** – customer satisfaction scores continue to be met although continued security and check-in transformational work has suppressed the quarterly scores for departures compared with the same period last year. The overall scores for arrivals across both terminals are ahead compared with the same period last year although the scores for North Terminal have been suppressed as a result of the scaffolding on the arrivals concourse.
- **GoVia Thameslink Railway (GTR) Strike Action** – GAL is working closely with the GTR to minimise the impact of planned rail strikes on passengers and staff.
- **Gatwick Railway Station** – the design work on the re-development of the railway station is progressing well. An update on the project will be given to a future meeting.
- **Surface Access** – statistics recently published by the CAA reveal that Gatwick achieved a 44% public transport mode share in 2015.

AIRPORT EXPANSION IN SOUTH EAST

GAL updated GATCOM on the current position. The scheme promoters (HAL, Heathrow Hub, and GAL) have met the DfT on five occasions to provide further information and evidence on the topic areas the Government had identified as requiring further examination, including how the impacts of the development would be minimised and mitigated. Those meetings have now come to a conclusion and the DfT is reflecting on the 3 options under consideration. Members commented on the absence of opportunity for other interested parties to contribute to or comment upon this further work prior to the Government making a decision. GAL had advised the Government of the need to seek comments from other interested parties. It was agreed that GATCOM would write to the Secretary of State for Transport to highlight the need for consultation with interested parties prior to a decision being made.

GATWICK AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICES

Werner Spier, Managing Director, Air Navigation Solutions Limited (ANS), gave a presentation on the transition of Gatwick's air traffic control services from National Air Traffic Services (NATS) to ANS and its work plan and key priorities from an operational and environmental management perspective. [Click here](#) to see a copy of the presentation slides.

ANS is committed to working with GAL to implement the recommendations of the Arrivals Review. There was much work that needed to be done to further explore the implications of some of the recommendations as well as in ANS' day to day operations. He believed there was scope to find solutions to improve the impact of aircraft arrivals on residents and that ANS could also draw on experience of best practices from its operations at Frankfurt Airport. In response to a question about improving the impact in respect of aircraft departures, it was too early to speculate what improvements could be achieved but it was confirmed that this was a matter for future consideration.

CAA CONSULTATION: REVIEW OF GATWICK AIRPORT LIMITED'S COMMITMENTS FRAMEWORK

In 2014 the CAA changed the way it regulates the charges and services GAL offers to airlines and passengers based on a set of commitments given by GAL. As part of the commitments GATCOM's Passenger Advisory Group (PAG) was given a formal role in the process of consultation on GAL Capital Investment Plan, major projects and also resilience planning.

The CAA is now undertaking a mid-term review of the new framework to ensure it is working in the passengers' interest and is consulting interested parties on the scope of the Review. The main focus of the review will be on issues within GAL's commitment framework that could influence on-time performance.

GAL presented an overview of performance against its regulatory commitments and the key issues for consideration as part of the CAA's mid-term review of the commitments framework. [Click here](#) to see a copy of the presentation slides. The impact of the new "lighter touch" regulatory framework has helped GAL to deliver strong performance and high quality services and facilities to passengers and airlines. The framework also encourages positive behaviours in terms of constructive engagement, innovation, market responsiveness and customer focus. GAL agrees with the focus of the CAA's review but highlighted that achieving on-time performance was a complex matter which was influenced by a whole host of external factors outside the control of GAL. It was important the CAA recognised that on-time performance also needed to be considered in the wider context airspace management across the South East region.

The Chairman of GATCOM's PAG commended the way in which GAL consulted and engaged with the Group on a whole range of projects, not just those that fell within the scope of the commitments framework and suggested that the CAA be invited to attend a PAG meeting to witness first-hand GAL's proactive and constructive engagement.

GATCOM agreed its response to the consultation subject to the inclusion of the reference to the need to recognise on-time performance in the wider context across the South East region.

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)

The report from the Chairman of PAG was considered.

GATCOM endorsed PAG's concern about:

- the reduced staffing levels within UK Border Force (UKBF) leading up to the busy summer period, particularly in view of the increase passenger numbers travelling through the airport. PAG supports GAL's collaborative working with UKBF and its approach to the Home Office raising concern about the annual staffing allocations at Gatwick.
- the strike action by ASLEF which will affect a number of rail services to and from Gatwick. On behalf of GATCOM, the Chairman wrote to GTR to express concern about the potential impact on passengers and staff accessing the airport with a request to seek a resolution at the earliest possible time.
- the capacity of the restaurants both airside and landside at Gatwick to meet peak passenger demand and also the need to ensure the changes to the catering offering at Gatwick continues to offer a range of "good value" options to passengers especially families travelling with children.

AIRPORTS AND ECONOMIC DIVERSITY

Jeremy Taylor, Gatwick Diamond Business, gave a presentation on how an airport brings economic diversity to an area – [click here](#) to see presentation slides. An overview was given of the economies within the Gatwick Diamond and the Coast to Capital Local Economic Partnership (LEP) areas and their contribution to the exchequer. The LEP contributes £48.5bn GVA to the exchequer and the GVA per employee is highest in the areas of Croydon and the Gatwick Diamond and the lowest per employee is in rural West Sussex and Greater Brighton regions. The

Gatwick Diamond economy was worth £23.1bn in 2014, the largest of the area partnerships within the LEP region.

Four examples of different businesses, both rural and urban, were given and the reasons why Gatwick and its route network was important to those businesses. GATCOM noted that just like the roles of shipping, railways and highways had played in determining economic success in the past, global air transportation networks offer a similar role now and in the future. The challenges are however that the South East region is too rich with limited housing stock, employment land and high education delivery. It was commented that an additional runway would add to those challenges and the local highway network in the Crawley area in particular already required significant investment and there was a need for Highways England to invest in improving east-west links. However it was also acknowledged that the local area benefited from Gatwick's good public transport links and the railway station.

GATWICK ARRIVALS REVIEW

GAL gave an overview of its response to the Arrivals Review Team's report and recommendations and its detailed plan to implement the various recommendations. GAL's commitment to take forward all of the Review Team's recommendations in partnership with the other key parties – DFT, CAA, NATS, ANS and the airlines - was welcomed. GAL has briefed local MPs.

GAL is seeking views on its detailed plan. The deadline for comments is 16 May 2016.

As part of its engagement with the community, GAL hosted an event for community representatives on 26 April to outline its detailed plan of action.

GAL reported that work was already underway in taking forward a number of the recommendations. Of those recommendations four priorities were:

- incentivising an acceleration of airlines' programmes for the vortex generator modification on Airbus A320 family aircraft
- further work examining the widening of the arrivals swathe to the east and west of the airport
- constituting the Noise Management Board
- establishing an enhanced complaints procedure

NATS reported that it was already working on a draft procedure to raise the height of the commencement of the CDA procedure to 7000ft including a performance monitoring regime. It was also reinvigorating the CDA engagement/awareness programme.

Noise Management Board

GATCOM supported the principle of the Noise Management Board to give oversight to a coordinated noise management vision and consequent strategies for Gatwick to include aircraft arrivals, aircraft departures and ground noise. The Committee also supported the appointment of Bo Redeborn as Chairman and Graham Lake as Secretary to the Board and agreed that the size of the Board needed to be kept at a manageable size to be constructive and effective. The Chairman of GATCOM had accepted the invitation to be a member of the Board.

GATCOM acknowledged the difficulties of seeking representation from local authorities and community groups in that many local authorities and groups wished to be represented. GATCOM urged all authorities and community groups to work together to collectively agree representatives for the available seats. It was also emphasised that the key aim of the Board was to agree and oversee a coordinated noise management vision and programme of work rather than consider site specific action.

GATCOM agreed a suggested framework to assist local authorities and community groups in the appointment of their representatives:

- that the principal authorities (county/borough/district councils) to the east of the airport (ie in Kent and East Sussex) should come together to appoint one representative on the NMB, and that the principal authorities to the west of the airport (i.e. in Surrey and West Sussex) should do the same.

- That this principle also be used for the local councils (town/parish councils) and community groups appointment of their representatives to the NMB.

It was felt that such a process would help to ensure a good geographical coverage and representation across the Gatwick region. It was also pointed out the good partnership/collaborative working already existed between those local authorities party to the 2016 Section 106 Agreement Memorandum of Understanding and could be used to assist in the local authority selection process.

It was confirmed that Ian Jopson, Director of Communications, would be the NATS representative on the Noise Management Board and that Tim May would be the DfT representative on the Board.

GATCOM commended the way in which the Review Team had undertaken the Arrivals Review agreed its [response](#) to the Review Team's Report and GAL's detailed plan of action subject to the inclusion of reference to local authorities being encouraged to work through existing mechanisms in collectively agreeing representation and new initiatives.

GATCOM also agreed:

- to write to the DfT urging the publication of the results of the Survey of Noise Attitudes at the earliest possible time
- to ask GAL to report progress on delivering the package of recommendations to the quarterly meetings of the GATCOM Steering Group

26 LAM DEPARTURE SID – MODIFICATION TO THE ROUTE 4

GAL gave an update on the modification to Route 4 (26 LAM departure SID) and the engagement programme with affected communities. GAL has submitted a modified SID that will implement a speed restriction on the turn of 220 knots. It is anticipated that in most weather conditions this speed restriction and the SID modification will ensure aircraft remain within the NPR. A map of the trial route is available on GAL's website – [click here](#) to see.

The route will be trialled with effect from 26 May 2016 for a period of six months. At the end of six months the CAA will review the performance data for Route 4 (which GAL will be required to provide), if the CAA is of the view that the RNAV design has not achieved its original stated aim, to an acceptable standard, then that RNAV SID route will not be confirmed and will be de-notified by the CAA i.e. removed from Aeronautical Information Publication (IFP).

GATCOM will be kept informed about the outcome of this trial.

CAA CONSULTATION – PROPOSALS FOR A REVISED AIRSPACE CHANGE PROCESS

The CAA is seeking views on proposed changes to the airspace change process to ensure that all stakeholders, including local communities are adequately consulted as part of a transparent, proportionate process which takes proper account of the needs and interests of all affected parties. GATCOM agreed its response to the CAA consultation as set out in the Secretariat's report.

All members and their organisations were also encouraged to submit their views on the proposed principles direct to the CAA.

FLIGHT PERFORMANCE TEAM (FPT) REPORT

GAL's quarterly report covering the period 1 October to 31 December 2015 was noted.

NOISE AND TRACK MONITORING ADVISORY GROUP (NATMAG)

The key messages from the meeting of NATMAG held on 25 February 2016 were noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will take place on Thursday 14 July 2016 at 2.00 p.m.

**Paula Street
Secretariat**