

**GATCOM Secretariat**

County Hall  
Chichester  
West Sussex  
PO19 1RQ

Telephone 0330 222543

Website: [www.gatcom.org.uk](http://www.gatcom.org.uk)



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**18 JULY 2019****GATWICK'S EXPANSION PLANS CONFIRMED**

Gatwick Airport Limited has today presented to GATCOM its final Airport Master Plan, setting out the company's vision for growth over the next decade and beyond and the next steps in taking forward its plans.

The final plan includes Gatwick's proposal to begin to prepare a planning application to routinely use the existing standby runway (also known as the 'maintenance' or 'emergency' runway) for aircraft departures alongside the use of the existing main runway. GATCOM recognises that Gatwick's announcement will attract much attention with some parties expressing their support and confidence in Gatwick's future as one of the region's major economic generators and the wide range of benefits expansion will bring but on the other hand the announcement will also attract much opposition and concern, especially from those people and communities who suffer the negative environmental impacts of Gatwick's operations, and pressures on local infrastructure.

GATCOM is not in a position to oppose or support Gatwick's growth plans given the wide range of views across its membership, but it focusses instead on matters of common interest and concern to the communities and interested parties around Gatwick, to help build an understanding of those matters and how they can be addressed.

Gatwick Airport Limited has announced it is now commencing the detailed work to take forward its plans through the planning process set down by Government for nationally significant infrastructure projects. That process involves seeking a Development Consent Order (DCO) and will require Gatwick to submit an application to the Planning Inspectorate along with other supporting material such as detailed impact assessments of its proposal. This process will include a statutory public consultation.

GATCOM Chair, Tom Crowley, said "We are keen to facilitate constructive discussions and ensure as many people as possible are aware of the consultation relating to the proposals to use the standby runway at Gatwick. GATCOM helps to provide an important link between users of the airport, the wider communities around Gatwick and the airport's management enabling all stakeholders, including local communities' voices to be heard through their GATCOM representatives."

Mr Crowley also said "I believe GATCOM has an important role in ensuring stakeholders have an understanding of all the issues raised through the planning process, including the impacts and benefits of the proposal. Exploring possible undertakings that GAL could offer to manage future growth as well as ways in which impacts can be avoided, reduced or mitigated will also be important considerations. As the independent statutory airport consultative committee we are in a good position to lend our voice to all stakeholders, to make representations to Gatwick, the Planning Inspectorate and Government when necessary."

Mr Crowley added "GATCOM will continue to ensure that all parties are appropriately engaged and that affected communities are kept informed of progress and consulted."

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

GATCOM is an independent advisory body constituted by Gatwick Airport Limited in accordance with section 35(1) of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 (as amended by the Airports Act 1986).

GATCOM has 28 appointed representatives from a wide range of interests including local authorities, civil aviation, passenger, business, tourism and community and environmental groups. A Department for Transport representative is also present at GATCOM meetings, together with Gatwick Airport's Chief Executive and his senior management team.

## **WHAT GATCOM DOES:**

**SEEKS** to build interest, communication and understanding between the airport and its users, local residents and the business community.

**CONSIDERS** airport issues concerned with the environment, surface access, employment, the economy and the circumstances of local communities.

**EXPLORES** with the airport initiatives to support its corporate social responsibility commitments.

**WORKS** to protect and enhance the interests of passengers and other users of the airport.

**CONSIDERS** and comments on matters referred to it by Gatwick Airport Ltd.

**CONSIDERS** and responds to consultations from Government and other sources that are material to the operation and future development of the airport.

For further information about GATCOM contact the organisation's secretariat on 033022 22543