

GATCOM 21 July 2022

KEY MESSAGES AND OUTCOMES FROM MEETING

The agenda and papers considered at the meeting are available on GATCOM's website at <http://www.gatcom.org.uk/agendas-and-minutes/>

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

- Helyn Clack was re-appointed as GATCOM Vice Chairman for a further year.

REPORTS AND KEY MESSAGES FROM SUB-GROUP & OTHER MEETINGS

GATCOM Steering Group – Chairman's Report

- The Chairmans report was noted, much of which was covered during other agenda items.

Passenger Advisory Group (PAG) – Chair's Report

- PAG is aware of a number of issues affecting the passenger journey at the moment and GAL are helping PAG to understand the breakdown of issues including cancellations, queues, baggage and cleanliness. A lot of work is being done by PAG around these issues.
- PAG were also involved in discussions around the North Terminal Refurbishment Project, Pier 6 Project and the Contracts and Commitments Framework extension consultation.
- GATCOM agreed the recommendations:
 - (1) That GATCOM commends GAL's decision to declare a temporary reduction in capacity for the peak summer period;
 - (2) That GATCOM supports GAL's initiatives put in place to reward good performance and to help drive up service standards for passengers;
 - (3) That GATCOM shares PAG's concern about the severe lack of resource many airport companies continue to face which has impacted on the passenger experience at Gatwick; and
 - (4) That GATCOM notes the work of PAG and its engagement with GAL as the 'critical friend' and support its role as advocate on behalf of passengers.

Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group (NATMAG)

- NATMAG's key messages to GATCOM were noted.
- Air Traffic Movements are up but complaints are not significantly up. New complaints are being monitored, particularly the location of these.
- Regarding Ground Noise, NATMAG have queried the suspension of monitoring FEGP Core Service Standard for the remote stands. GAL have agreed to review this at the November NATMAG meeting.
- The review KENET track changes for winter produced sizable savings in CO2 for those flights that were able to use this route. It is hoped that the Airspace Modernisation programme will review this through FASI-South.
- DFT hopes to publish its response to the Stage 1 night flights consultation at the end of next year.

Noise Management Board (NMB) – Executive Board (NEX) Report

- The NMB Co-Chairs' report was noted.
- The NEX Chair thanked GAL for the annual engagement with communities on noise charges.
- It was noted that the Noise Envelope Group process was underway.
- The Low Noise Arrival Metric (LNAM), proposed by communities, was now being adopted at Gatwick, nationally and internationally.

- GAL's project bid for funds to develop FED-2 was not approved by the Airspace Modernisation Fund. It was hoped that stakeholders will work together to ensure a revised bid is approved.
- The NEX Chair reported that some stakeholder's behaviour and tone in meetings is falling short of how they should address colleagues. He hoped this could improve.
- The GACC representative asked for a paper from the Tunbridge Wells Aircraft Noise Study Group be circulated to GATCOM members to highlight frustrations around the process. It was agreed this would be checked with the NMB Co-Chairs before being circulated.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer's commentary on activity and performance of Gatwick over the previous quarter was discussed. The key points to note are:

- **Traffic** – Over 13 million passengers in the first 6 months of 2022, surpassing the 10.2 million passengers in 2020.
- **Airlines** – rapidly recovering. In June there were on average 116,000 passengers per day, operating just under 800 runway movements.
- **Recruitment** – as detailed in a [GAL press release](#) 400 new security staff have been recruited for the summer season. With this additional resource it is expected to be back to 95% of the time queues being less than 5 minutes. Currently 90% of passengers are getting through security in under 10 minutes.
- **Declared Capacity** - During the Jubilee holiday period there were a number of operational challenges and higher than expected last minute flight cancellations. As a consequence, GAL and the Airlines worked together to agree a capacity declaration for July and August to put resilience in the system and avoid late cancellations.
- **Night Flights** – Some concern was raised about the number of night flights. It was noted this data is included in the NATMAG reports and would be monitored.
- **Incidents** – GAL has been in contact with the families and staff involved in the recent sad and tragic incident when an elderly passenger fell on an escalator and was fatally injured. The incident is under investigation. The CEO had also spoken to the passenger who had to wait 90 minutes for special assistance. Wilson James acknowledged this was below expected standards and are working hard to ensure better standards, including additional resources.
- **Investment & Growth** – GAL are in conversations with Airlines and PAG to extend the Contracts and Commitments Framework for a further 4 years to 2029.
- **Main Runway resurfacing project** – completion expected by the end of August but weather dependent.
- **Section 106 agreement** – extended to cover the period until the end of 2024.
- **Community** – GAL are supporting a number of community events over the summer period, including Horley carnival and the Crawley Community Awards.

NORTHERN RUNWAY DCO - UPDATE

Engagement with Stakeholders

GAL [presented](#) an update. The key points are:

- A Summer 2022 consultation was launched on 14 June on the updated highways improvements designs and other updates to the Northern Runway project. The closing date for responses to the consultation is 27 July.
- Engagement with statutory stakeholders will continue as GAL consider the consultation responses and further refine the DCO prior to submission in 2023. There was some debate about the topic working groups with Local Authorities suggesting that not enough time or information had been provided. GAL confirmed that they were allowing more time for feedback until December.

- GATCOM expressed concern around car parking and the need to understand future travel behaviour post pandemic, encourage more sustainable transport and reduce unauthorised off airport parking.

GATCOM response to the consultation

- The need for a GATCOM response to the Summer 2022 consultation was agreed at the recent Steering Group and an initial draft was circulated via email to all GATCOM members, support officers and PAG. All comments received had been considered and incorporated into the final draft response included in the agenda pack.
- Some additional comments, from GACC, had been received and circulated to all Members via email on Monday 18 July.
- It was agreed to strengthen the wording around unauthorised parking and the need to understand passengers travel behaviours.
- It was agreed that the final version of the GATCOM response would be approved by the Chairman and Vice Chairman and the Secretariat would submit the final version to GAL and circulate it to all members. Post meeting note: The GATCOM response has been submitted and can be found on the [GATCOM Website](#)
- Individuals and organisations were also encouraged to submit their own responses to the consultation.

GATWICK'S ACTIVITY TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL ECONOMY

GAL [presented](#) an update. The key points are:

- GAL is committed to supporting and growing the local economy, working with local partners and supporting local communities.
- Think local, act local. From June 2022 the catchment area for businesses to register their interest in working with Gatwick will be expanded to reflect the Five Authorities region.
- The [Airport Economic Zone](#) research has been published. Commissioned by GAL and produced by Coast to Capital LEP. This will provide an evidenced baseline for future consideration and a common approach.
- Following regular round tables with stakeholders GAL will host an Economic Summit in the Autumn.

GATWICK AIRPORT NOISE EXPOSURES CONTOURS 2022

- GATCOM noted the report detailing the results of the noise modelling at Gatwick Airport for the summer period of 2021.

APPOINTMENT OF SUB-GROUPS

- GATCOM agreed the appointments to the GATCOM Steering Group, and the Passenger Advisory Group as detailed in the report.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting of GATCOM will take place on Thursday 22 September 2022 at 2.00 p.m. This meeting would be virtual via MS Teams.
- It was agreed that following the publication of the governments [Jet Zero Strategy](#) this would be added the agenda for the next meeting of GATCOM with GAL and DfT presenting. It was also suggested that AEF should be invited to that meeting.

Future GATCOM meetings and GATCOM Steering Group meetings would rotate between being virtual and in-person as follows:

GATCOM

Thursday 20 October 2022 at 2.00 pm – virtual (MS Teams)

Thursday 26 January 2023 at 2.00 pm – in person

GATCOM STEERING GROUP

Thursday 22 September 2022 at 10:00 – in person (possibly followed by the annual members tour of Gatwick)

Thursday 5 January 2023 at 10:00 – virtual (MS Teams)

A date for a rearranged GATCOM away day will be set soon and is hoped to take place prior to the next GATCOM.

Monique Smart
Secretariat