

GATCOM 26 January 2023

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/>

Membership Updates

Liz Lockwood has resigned as a Tandridge District Councillor so is no longer their representative on GATCOM. We await formal confirmation from Tandridge District Council about a new appointment.

GACC confirmed that Richard Streatfeild has stood down as the GACC representative on GATCOM. We await formal confirmation from GACC about a new appointment.

Both of the above were also appointed to the GATCOM Steering Group and NaTMAG. Nominations will be sought from members for these vacancies and considered at the April or July GATCOM meeting.

REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUP & OTHER MEETINGS

GATCOM Steering Group – Chairman's Report

GATCOM agreed the following recommendations from the Steering Group:

- 1) GATCOM noted and endorsed the actions from the away day, detailed [here](#)
- 2) GATCOM considered whether an additional seat on GATCOM should be created for another Environment and Amenity group and concluded this was not required.
- 3) GATCOM considered whether the Environment and Amenity group representation on GATCOM should be reviewed periodically and concluded this was not something that GATCOM should impose.
- 4) GATCOM considered the role it should play in the next formal stages of the DCO process and agreed they would make representations to the Planning Inspectorate at the appropriate stages, on matters previously identified by the committee in response to the draft master plan and formal consultations.
- 5) GATCOM agreed the response to the DfT consultation on the effectiveness of the CAA. The final response has now been submitted to the DfT and can be found on the GATCOM website [here](#).

Passenger Advisory Group (PAG) – Chair's Report

PAG continue to be busy, and all the working groups are fully engaged with GAL and as always PAG thank GAL for the time and commitment given.

PAG continue to monitor Core Service Standards and performance.

Projects and consultations PAG are involved in at present include the North Terminal Refurbishment, wayfinding improvements and the capital investments project.

PAG welcomes the appointment of GALs new accessibility manager and looks forward to working with them going forward.

GATCOM noted 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:

- 1) The Airspace Office continue to implement interactive reporting through the use of PowerBI to provide more beneficial insights in a more informative way. The Airline Noise Performance Table currently published by GAL will become an interactive dashboard in the new year.
- 2) Pilot representatives from easyJet attended the November NaTMAG and both their insights and contributions deeply enriched the level of conversation surrounding a number of topics. It is hoped pilot representation would continue at future meetings.

GATCOM endorsed the [NaTMAG report](#) that detailed the END NAP actions for NaTMAG to review in 2023 detailed in section 1.5 and the comments put forward to GAL in section 1.7.

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

The NMB Chair explained that a number of Community Noise Group (CNG) representatives had written to Gatwick's CEO stating they felt the NMB had failed in its mission and that the extension to its timetable should not proceed and suggested the NMB should be wound up and alternative arrangements be considered.

The GACC representative on GATCOM asked for the letter from GACC to be circulated to all GATCOM members as it detailed the reasons why they felt the NMB should be wound up. This letter can be found on the [GACC website here](#)

Given the concerns raised by some CNGs, the NMB Co-Chairs asked if GATCOM members had a view on whether the NMB should cease to operate with immediate effect and alternative arrangements sought? The NMB Chair highlighted the good work of the NMB as detailed in his report to GATCOM, the requirements in the s106 legal agreement and the extension agreed just last year to extend the term due to factors such as COVID.

GATCOM members did stress this was not a decision for GATCOM but for GAL and the NMB Chairs.

A number of GATCOM members spoke in support of the NMB continuing and suggested the planned review later this year should go ahead and at that stage alternative options could be explored, especially in the absence of any proposals from the CNG's on the future organisation of the NMB.

Some members suggested that there was cross over between the NMB and NaTMAG and it would be useful to have clearer definitions. A document was previously agreed and circulated to GATCOM members in 2021 and is attached [here](#) as a reminder to members.

Stewart Wingate, GAL CEO, thanked GATCOM for their views and explained that GAL are taking time to consider the views of all stakeholders, including GATCOM members and would respond in more detail to the GACC letter in the coming weeks.

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:

- In the final Quarter of 2022, Gatwick Airport was flying to almost 90% of the destinations it flew prior to the pandemic in 2019, serving 172 destinations during the holiday period, compared to 197 in the same period in 2019 (87%).
- New routes and airlines include Bamboo Airway who have launched two new routes to Vietnam. At the beginning of December, Emirates increased its flights to three times daily, taking them back to its pre-COVID capacity levels. Flights to Cape Town with British Airways returned on 13th December. German airline Lufthansa will commence twice daily flights to Frankfurt in summer 2023.
- Operational challenges over the last quarter included the impact of unexpected snowfall in early December and rail and Border Force industrial action. The mitigations and contingencies put in place for the Border Force action ensured no disruption to passengers, but GAL have worked closely with PAG to keep them informed of any issues that could affect passengers.
- After a break of six years, NATS is back as the air traffic service provider at Gatwick. The smooth transition from Air Navigation Solutions Limited took place on 8-9 October with all the existing controllers and engineers transferring across to NATS.
- The CAA Interim Airport Accessibility Report released its findings from the seven-month period between 1 April and 31 October 2022. Gatwick's improvement across the year has been reflected in the report, which shows the airport as providing passengers with a 'very good' service at the end of the season. Gatwick worked closely with our assistance provider, Wilson James, to provide significant extra resources and enhanced processes after learning lessons from the difficult start to the year as passenger numbers increased rapidly after the pandemic.
- The Gatwick Foundation Fund has relaunched with grants available for local organisations in Kent, Surrey and Sussex that support young people, improve health and well-being, tackle social isolation and disadvantage or raise aspirations. £300,000 is available each year, with £100,000 distributed in three rounds of funding, the first of which is open for applications immediately. Project funding is also available from the Gatwick Airport Community Trust; applications are open until the deadline of 31 March 2023.
- Gatwick Airport's inaugural Economic Summit "Local Economy. Global Opportunity." Took place in November 2022, bringing together key stakeholders to discuss long-term sustainable economic growth and future inward investment in the region. Positive feedback was received after the event, and it is hoped to be repeated this year.
- In October, Stewart Wingate gave evidence to the House of Commons Transport Select Committee on Summer resilience alongside representatives from easyJet and British Airways, as part of a lessons learnt exercise. GAL also responded to the

Government's consultation on slot alleviation for Summer 23 and support DfT's plan to return to 80:20 next summer.

NORTHERN RUNWAY DCO - UPDATE

GAL provided an update on the DCO Process. The key points are:

- Engagement with statutory stakeholders continues as GAL finalise the DCO documents prior to submission.
- GAL hope to submit the DCO in the spring of 2023.
- Once the DCO is submitted the timescales for the examination are then set out by PINS and can be found detailed on their [website](#)
- GAL will inform GATCOM as soon as the Planning Inspectorate accepts the application and prior to the pre-examination stage.

GATWICK AIRPORTS JOURNEY TO NET ZERO

Following a presentation from the DfT and AEF at the last GATCOM meeting on the Government Jet Zero Strategy, GATCOM received a presentation from Mark Edwards, Head of Sustainability, GAL, that detailed GALs journey to net zero. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

The presentation detailed emissions from airport-controlled sources (known as scope 1 and 2 emissions) as well as from other sources (scope 3) related to activities on the airport and work already underway or planned to achieve GALs Decade of Change goal of reaching net zero by 2040. GALs interim target for those area it has direct control is to reduce emissions by 80% by 2030 from a 1990 baseline.

A call for evidence from the DfT on the best approach to implementing targets for achieving zero emissions for airport operations by 2040 is expected very soon. This would then be followed by a full consultation. It is hoped this will determine the definition of 'airport operations' and the methods for monitoring and reporting.

GAL confirmed they would publish a Carbon Action Plan as part of the DCO application.

NEW ROUTES AND GROWTH

GATCOM received a presentation from David Bell, Airline Business Development Manager, GAL that provided an update on new routes and growth at Gatwick. The presentation can be viewed [here](#)

TOURISM AND THE VISITOR ECONOMY

GATCOM received a presentation from Alison Addy (GAL), Fran Downton (Tourism SE) and Angie Hills (ABTA) on how the tourism and visitor economy sector is recovering from the pandemic and how Gatwick work with partners such as local authorities and Tourism SE to support the local visitor economy. The presentation can be found [here](#)

AIRSPACE UPDATE

Airspace Modernisation - GAL is currently at the initial options and appraisal stage of the CAP1616 airspace change process. Briefings to parish councils - to explain the process and progress so far - took place over recent months ahead of a fifth cycle of

stage 2 FASI-South engagement sessions planned to complete by early February. A further round of engagement will then take place ahead of submission to the CAA for the Stage 2 Gateway assessment.

As this is one part of a national complex, multi-project programme there has also been a lot of engagement with other airspace change sponsors, NATS and with the Airspace Change Organising Group (ACOG). Some areas of design conflict with other sponsors in the South East have been identified and will take time to resolve. Therefore, the Stage 2 Gateway Assessment is now expected Quarter 2/3 2023.

Route 4 – Stage 2 has now been completed and GAL have progressed to Stage 3 of the airspace change process which requires a full options appraisal and public consultation. Work on stage 3 is expected to commence soon with a full consultation planned to start in June 2023.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting of GATCOM will take place on Thursday 27 April 2023 at 2.00 pm virtually via MS Teams.
- The next meeting of the GATCOM Steering Group will take place on Thursday 6 April 2023 at 2.00pm at Gatwick Airport.
- The next meeting of PAG will take place on Thursday 30 March 2023 at 1.30pm at Gatwick Airport

Monique Smart
Secretariat