

**Minutes of the meeting of the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee (GATCOM) held on 26 January 2023 at the Sofitel, Gatwick Airport.**

<b>Present:</b>	
Tom Crowley	Chairman
Cllr Helyn Clack	Surrey County Council
Cllr Richard Biggs	Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Jonathan Drew	Chair, Noise Management Executive Board
Samantha Williams	Chair, Passenger Advisory Group
Cllr Malcolm Fillmore	Rusper Parish Council
Cllr Atif Nawaz	Crawley Borough Council
Cllr Eddie Lord	Burstow Parish Council
Angie Hills	ABTA
Cllr. Liz Kitchen	Horsham District Council
Chris Larkman	Which? representative
Dominic Rothwell	Unite
Cllr. Caroline Salmon	Mole Valley District Council
Peter Barclay	Environmental and Amenity Groups
Cllr. Steve Waight	West Sussex County Council
Fran Downton	Tourism SouthEast
Cllr Stephen Hiller	Mid Sussex District Council
Stuart Pick	London Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Hugh McConnellogue	Gatwick AOC
Cllr. Penny Shoubridge	Charlwood Parish Council

<b>Also in attendance:</b>	
Stewart Wingate	Chief Executive Officer, GAL
Tim Norwood	Director of Corporate Affairs, Planning & Sustainability, GAL
Andy Sinclair	Head of Noise & Airspace Strategy, GAL
Alison Addy	Head of External Engagement & Policy, GAL
Melanie Wrightson	Stakeholder Engagement Manager, GAL
Monique Smart	GATCOM Secretariat

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Cllr Mick Gillman (Tandridge District Council), Cllr Rupert Simmons (East Sussex County Council) Cllr Mike George (Horley Town Council) Cllr. Alan Jones (Burstow Parish Council), Cllr Carolyn Evans(Charlwood Parish Council), Ana Christie (Sussex Chamber of Commerce), Cllr Margot McArthur (Kent County Council) Anthony Middleton (C2C LEP), Colin Stewart (BAR UK).

**Membership Updates**

The Secretariat provided the following updates to membership:

- Liz Lockwood had resigned as a Tandridge District Councillor so was no longer their appointed representative on GATCOM. We await formal confirmation from Tandridge DC about a new appointment.
- GACC confirmed that Richard Streatfeild had stood down as their representative on GATCOM. Again, we await formal confirmation from GACC about a new appointment.
- Dominic Rothwell was welcomed as the new representative from Unite.

It was noted that Liz Lockwood and Richard Streatfeild were appointed by GATCOM to the GATCOM Steering Group and NaTMAG so their departure had left vacancies on those groups. GACC will put forward their representative to replace Richard Streatfeild and nominations would be sought from GATCOM members to fill the vacancy created by Liz Lockwood's departure. That would be approved at a future GATCOM meeting.

### **Minutes Of The Last Meeting**

1. Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of GATCOM held on 20 October 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman.
2. In relation to actions from the last meeting, the Secretariat provided the following updates:
  - Minute 7 - the note from GACC to GATCOM about the proposed Noise Envelope Process was circulated to all GATCOM members on 18 November 2022. As agreed, the note included responses on each point from GAL.
  - Minute fifteen, bullet two - confirmation was sought as to whether the progress of the outcomes of the review of Departure Noise Limits and Fines would be dependent on the DCO application being put in or approved. Following the meeting GAL confirmed that the DCO consultation in autumn 2021 was used as an EU 598 compliant vehicle to commence external engagement on Departure Noise Limits. There was further consultation with industry partners and local stakeholders in 2022 and this is planned to continue into 2023, this is separate from the DCO process. The review of the published Departure Noise Limits and Fines is an END Noise Action Plan action the progress of which is tracked through NaTMAG.

### **Reports From Sub-Group And Other Meetings**

3. GATCOM received and considered reports summarising the key messages and recommendations arising from the meetings of the GATCOM Steering Group, Passenger Advisory Group (PAG), GAL's Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group (NaTMAG), and the Gatwick Noise Management Board (copies attached to the signed minutes).

### **GATCOM Steering Group – Chairman's Report**

4. The Chairman of GATCOM introduced his report of the last Steering Group meeting on 5 January 2023.
5. The Chairman announced that the consultation on the Effectiveness of the CAA had been extended to 29 January, therefore allowing GATCOM to discuss and agree a response at this meeting. The draft response had been circulated to all Members and added to the website on Friday last week. Copies were also available at the meeting. This would therefore be considered after the four recommendations in the Steering Group report.
6. Recommendation one asked members to note and endorse the actions from the GATCOM away day. The report was attached at Appendix C. The Chairman explained that the appendix detailed the key messages and section 3 of the appendix (page 25-26) tabled the actions and the progress made on those actions to date.
7. Resolved: Members noted and endorsed the actions from the GATCOM away day.

8. Recommendation two asked GATCOM to consider whether an additional seat on GATCOM should be created for another Environment and Amenity Group. The Chairman explained that this was discussed by one of the groups at the away day and then in more detail at the Steering Group meeting when one member asked for this to be considered by GATCOM. The discussion at the Steering Group was detailed in section 7.2 of the Steering Group report.
9. The Chairman also referred to the membership request received from CAGNE. The latest letter from CAGNE was included at Appendix B for members information. However, the Chairman did stress that the discussion and recommendation today was about whether to create an additional seat and not whether a specific group or organisation should be appointed.
10. GATCOM members raised the following points in relation to recommendation two:
  - The proposal for this to be discussed at GATCOM was put forward by Cllr Liz Lockwood who is no longer a GATCOM member.
  - A review of membership in 2019/20 resulted in an additional seat for Environment and Amenity groups and this was subsequently offered to the Noise Management Board (NMB) Chair. A review of the NMB is planned and if there was any change to the NMB then GATCOM could consider a further review at that stage.
  - CAGNE and other groups are on the NMB so can raise issues for GATCOM via the NMB Chair.
  - It was suggested other groups or organisations could be invited to speak at meetings with relevant items on the agenda rather than creating an additional seat.
11. Resolved: There was no support to create an additional seat on GATCOM for another Environment and Amenity group.
12. Recommendation three asked GATCOM to consider whether the Environment and Amenity group representation on GATCOM should be reviewed periodically and if so, how frequently.
13. GATCOM members raised the following points in relation to recommendation three:
  - No other appointment or member was subject to a fixed term so it was felt this would not be appropriate.
  - The process for review could put GATCOM members in a difficult position.
  - There was a need for continuity.
14. Resolved: There was no support to periodically review the Environment and Amenity group representation on GATCOM
15. Recommendation four asked GATCOM to consider what role they should play in the next formal stages of the Northern Runway DCO process, including the possibility of making 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.
16. GATCOM members raised the following points in relation to recommendation four:
  - It was acknowledged that GATCOM had responded to all the consultations in relation to the Northern Runway project.

- GATCOM had previously made representations which encourage steps to minimise impacts, mitigate their effects and secure appropriate infrastructure.
- It was suggested that GATCOM should register as an 'interested party' and comment on how successful the airport has been in addressing GATCOMs previous points.
- It was agreed that it was important for individual members, groups and councils to register as interested parties if they had specific matters to raise, especially if a consensus was not reached on that matter by GATCOM.

17. Resolved: GATCOM 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.

18. As previously stated, the Chairman asked GATCOM to consider the previously circulated draft response to the DfT consultation of the Effectiveness of the CAA.

19. Resolved: GATCOM agreed the response to the DfT consultation on the Effectiveness of the CAA and for it to be submitted to the DfT.

### **Passenger Advisory Group (PAG) – Chair's Report**

20. The PAG Chair introduced the report and highlighted the following:

- 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 to this work.
- 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.

21. Resolved: 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) Summary Report**

22. The Secretariat introduced the report on behalf of the Lead Member for Noise.

23. Members noted NATMAG's key messages to GATCOM as follows:

- 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.

24. GATCOM was also asked to consider and endorsed the outcomes of the NaTMAG assessment and way forward in relation to the END NAP actions for GAL to deliver in 2023 as detailed in the report attached as appendix A report to this agenda item.

25. NaTMAG continues to regularly monitor the delivery of the NAP actions and at a special meeting in December they undertook a full review of year four of the five-year NAP to identify where additional focus may be needed to deliver the commitments.
26. Section 1.5 of the report listed the suggested actions for review in 2023. Section 1.7 of the report provided comments put forward to GAL for improvements going forward.
27. Resolved: That 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) – Chair of NMB Executive Board (NEX)**

28. The Chair of the NMB introduced his report.
29. The NMB Chair explained that some of the Community Noise Groups (CNGs) 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.
30. 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 (attached to the signed minutes), the requirements in the s106 legal agreement and the extension agreed just last year to extend the term due to factors such as COVID.
31. It was confirmed that the view of some of the CNGs was not supported by other members of the NMB Executive Board. Nor was it a view held by all CNGs. Also, no CNG had currently withdrawn from the NMB. It was also confirmed that any decision to end the NMB early was not for GATCOM but under the S106 agreement this was a decision for the NMB Chair.
32. GATCOM members raised the following points in relation to this issue:
  - The GACC representative asked for the letter from GACC to GAL 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](#)
  - A number of GATCOM members spoke in support of the NMB continuing in its current form.
  - It was noted that there were currently no proposals from the CNG's on the future organisation of the NMB.
  - It was suggested the planned review this summer should go ahead and at that stage alternative options could be explored.
  - Some members suggested 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.
  - It was asked whether the NMB progress report could be shared with GATCOM. The NMB Chair agreed to follow this up with his co-chairs.

33. 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 CNG letters in the coming weeks. He went on to say that at this stage he was minded to suggest the review goes ahead as planned in the summer, and engagement take place prior to gather suggestions for improvement.

### **Chief Executive Officer's Report**

34. Stewart Wingate, Chief Executive Officer, GAL, reported on activity at the airport over the past quarter (copy attached to the signed minutes). He then highlighted the key points from his quarterly report as follows:
- 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 Project - Update**

35. Tim Norwood, Director of Corporate Affairs, Planning & Sustainability, GAL an update on the DCO Process. The key points to note were as follows:
- 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 and accepted timescales for various deadlines including the examination are then published on the Planning Inspectorate's [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**

36. GATCOM received a [presentation](#) from Mark Edwards, Head of Sustainability, GAL, that detailed GALs journey to net zero. This followed a presentation from the DfT and AEF at the last GATCOM meeting on the Government Jet Zero Strategy.
37. 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 is to reduce its scope 1 and 2 emissions so that it reaches 80% under the 1990 baseline by 2030.
38. Mark Edwards explained that a call for evidence from the DfT on the approach to implementing targets for achieving zero emissions for airport operations by 2040 is expected soon. This would then be followed by a full consultation. It is expected this would determine the definition of 'airport operations' and the methods for monitoring and reporting.
39. GAL also confirmed they would publish a Carbon Action Plan as part of the DCO application.
40. GATCOM members raised a number of points to which the following responses were provided:
- Hydrogen powered vehicles had not yet been procured as GAL had not established how to bring hydrogen on to site safely. GAL have worked and help fund Metrobus hydrogen buses to be used on local routes, which are expected to be operating shortly.
  - There are currently a number of electric GAL vehicles on-airport. Other vehicles would be replaced when they come to the end of their life.
  - Photo voltaic are not suitable for all buildings but would be considered where possible.
  - GAL have the infrastructure to support Sustainable Aviation Fuel.
  - All lighting at the airport is being replaced with LED and intelligent controls to reduce the impact but some lighting is underpinned by safety requirements.

## **New Routes And Growth**

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

## **Tourism And The Visitor Economy**

42. 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.
43. In addition to the information provided in the presentation Alison Addy updated GATCOM on the restructure of the GAL team including a Economic Partnership Manager role and a new member of the commercial team, whose job it is to promote Gatwick across the region and the globe.

## **Airspace Update**

44. Andy Sinclair, Head of Noise and Airspace Strategy, GAL, provided updates as follows:

### **Airspace Modernisation**

45. GAL was 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.
46. As this was one part of a national complex, multi-project programme there had 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 would take time to resolve. Therefore, the Stage 2 Gateway Assessment was now expected Quarter 2/3 2023.

### **Route 4**

47. Stage 2 had 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 was expected to commence soon with a full consultation planned to start in June 2023.

## **Date of Next Meeting of GATCOM and its Sub-Groups**

48. GATCOM noted the next meetings of GATCOM and its sub-groups as follows:
  - The next meeting of GATCOM will take place on Thursday 27 April 2023 at 2.00 pm 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



Chairman

The meeting concluded at 4.40pm.