

GATCOM 27 April 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

Tandridge District Councillor confirmed that Cllr Mick Gillman is their main representative on GATCOM, and Cllr Nicholas White is the substitute member.

GACC have confirmed that Ed Winter is their main representative on GATCOM. Peter Barclay remains as the substitute member.

As GACC have one seat on both the GATCOM Steering Group and NaTMAG it has been agreed that Ed Winter can attend both those meetings ahead of the formal appointment which will be put forward to GATCOM at the annual meeting in July.

It was agreed to reconsider the term length of the environment and amenity representatives on GATCOM. This would be added to the agenda for the next GATCOM away day to allow a more in-depth review of this issue. The next away day is anticipated to take place in the autumn 2023.

GATCOM Independent Technical Advisor

The appointment of Graham Lake as the new Independent Technical Advisor to GATCOM was confirmed and Graham was welcomed to his first GATCOM meeting.

NOISE ACTION PLAN

GATCOM received a [presentation](#) from Defra that outlined Defra's responsibility for implementing the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 which requires Noise Action Plans to be produced by major airports every five years (known as rounds).

The key points to note are:

- GAL's new NAP, round 4, must be published by February 2024.
- The legislation requires that the noise mapping is based on 2021 data. These maps are intended to provide a snapshot of the noise impact arising from operations at the airport.
- Due to Covid travel restrictions, mapping for 2021 has shown a highly anomalous situation. As a result, airports may supplement the 2021 data with information from a more representative period when drawing up Noise Action Plans.
- Population data is also based on 2021 data and not on projected population.
- Regulation does not provide for enforcement so there is no provision for not meeting actions. However, this is where GATCOM can help by holding the airport to account.

GATCOM then received a [presentation](#) from GAL on their work to date and plans for engagement related to their Round 4 Noise Action Plan.

The key points to note are:

- GAL has completed the Strategic Noise Mapping exercise the outputs from which have been validated by DEFRA.
- GAL have an on-going review process through NaTMAG. The data gathering will include information from that review process.
- A number of actions from Round 3 will continue into Round 4
- Engagement is in its early stages but will progress through GATCOM, NaTMAG and the NMB. NaTMAG will be briefed on the engagement plan in detail at their next meeting in May and have sight of an early draft with a final draft for review at their August meeting. GATCOM will have updates at the following two meetings.
- The draft plan will be submitted to Defra by 1st September 2023.

AIRSPACE UPDATE

Airspace Modernisation: FASI-South - Stage 2 of the CAA's CAP1616 Airspace Change Process - GAL are finalising the Initial Options Appraisal assessment slightly later than anticipated. CAA Stage 2 Gateway assessment is now September 2023.

The 6th cycle of Stage 2 stakeholder engagement is planned for end Q2 2023, to inform stakeholders of the outputs of the Initial Options Appraisal.

Stage 3 consultation is currently scheduled to take place in 2024. Some movement in the timelines of the overall programme can be expected, this will have a consequent effect for the development of the Gatwick FASI airspace change proposal as GAL begin to integrate design options with those from the other interdependent proposals.

Route 4 – Stage 2 of the CAA's CAP1616 Airspace Change Process - Stage 2 has now been completed and GAL have progressed to Stage 3 of the CAP1616 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 provisionally planned to take place in the second half of 2023.

NMB review - An NMB Outcomes Workshop took place on 29 March. Discussions centred around outcomes of the NMB workplan to date and what tweaks might be made to processes during the remainder of the current NMB term. A report from the workshop is being drafted and will help identify lessons learned; an exercise that will help to inform the NMB Review. The GAL review is planned to start in July with a view to having a draft third term proposal to share ahead of the final NCF of the year, scheduled for 27 September.

REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUP & OTHER MEETINGS

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

The Co-chair highlighted the work around undercarriage deployment that was progressing well. The outcome is likely to be adapted general guidance for the Gatwick pages of the UK Aeronautical Information Publication, and if this does happen it would be a UK first to lead to adapted guidance. As a reminder, the hoped-for outcome (based on the monitoring carried out as part of this project) is to reduce noise impacts on the ground - in other words the aviation noise that could be heard by residents - by 2-3 dB in specific areas.

Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group (NATMAG)

NATMAG's key messages to GATCOM were noted:

- 1) NaTMAG members welcomed an update on the 2019 review of the Noise Insulation Scheme by Mitchell Environmental.
- 2) An insightful discussion was had on the redefined Route 4 Noise Preferential Route (NPR). It had underscored that there were no changes to the track of flights over the ground as a result of the redefinition of the Route 4 NPR.

GATCOM Steering Group – Chairman's Report

GATCOM agreed the following recommendation from the Steering Group:

- 1) That GATCOM agree to establishing a process to enhance members roles and encourage members to submit questions ahead of each GATCOM meeting.

Passenger Advisory Group (PAG) – Chair's Report

The PAG Chair highlighted that two PAG members had decided to step down from their volunteer roles. This has highlighted some concerns and frustrations PAG Members have experienced whilst undertaking their roles.

Stewart Wingate, GAL CEO, reinforced his support for PAG and assured GATCOM that GAL do fully support and appreciate the work of PAG. As in the past, GAL executives would continue to liaise with and work closely with the PAG Chair to ensure the relationship continues to build in a positive way.

A recruitment process for up to four new volunteer members will follow shortly.

GATCOM and GAL expressed thanks to those two members who have both been valued and committed members of PAG for some years.

GATCOM agreed the following recommendation from PAG:

- 1) 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.
- 2) That GATCOM supports PAG in lobbying GAL for improvements to the multi-storey car parks to improve the passenger experience in this area.

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 year ending 31 December 2022 GAL had served 32.8 million passengers, achieving 70.4% of 2019 traffic levels.
- As detailed in [GALs 2022 financial report](#), the airport turned a profit of £196.5 million in 2022 following the substantial losses from the previous two years.
- GAL will invest over £250 million to reduce its own carbon emissions and become net zero by 2030. This is bringing forward a previously set target by 10 years. This will be include replacing gas boilers and vehicles on the GAL estate.

- GAL has unveiled its [new brand identity](#) and refreshed vision, reflecting its strong ongoing recovery from the pandemic, providing a platform for the airport's next phase of growth and supporting significant economic opportunities for the region. Stewart Wingate suggested GATCOM may consider allowing his commercial team to come to the next GATCOM to provide a full update on this and how it aligns with GALs values and strategic priorities.
- Although operations continue to be affected by industrial action at both the Border and on the trains , GAL were pleased to inform GATCOM that pay negotiations with its own unionised staff have been agreed and completed.
- The many new airlines and routes from Gatwick were highlighted including Air India, Air China, Air Mauritius, Saudia, Delta and Lufthansa. Business representatives welcomes these new routes that were already opening up opportunities for local businesses.

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.
- Due to Local Authorities requesting additional time and sharing of draft documents, the timescale for submission was now expected to be towards the end of June 2023.
- Some members did express concern about the level of resources required by already stretched Local Authorities and that additional funding should be provided. GAL responded stating that funds had been provided to the 10 authorities under a planning performance agreement and further funds had been made available. GAL was also sharing information with local authorities through topic working groups.
- Once the DCO is submitted the timescales for the examination are then largely set out in process / guidance and by PINS and can be found detailed on their [website](#)

SURREY & SUSSEX HEALTHCARE (SASH) NHS TRUST - CHARITY PARTNER UPDATE

Andrew Bickerdike from SASH provided GATCOM with a brief overview of their charity partnership with Gatwick Airport Limited. This included:

- A video about the charity partnership [here](#) – shows the deep links between the airport community and the hospital community
- A 2023 thank you Gatwick video [here](#).

The presentation and videos included details of campaigns towards a new Cancer Centre Summerhouse, Emergency Department Staff Room and Children's Appeal. If any GATCOM members were able to make new introductions, to people in the local area (or further afield) who may be well placed to help please contact Andrew.Bickerdike@nhs.net.

DfT CONSULTATIONS

GATCOM considered responses to the following DfT consultations:

- 2040 Zero Emissions Airport Targets - closing date 2 May
- Night Time Noise Abatement Objectives - closing date 9 May

It was agreed that additional comments would be incorporated into the draft responses, and they would be resent to GATCOM members prior to submission.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting of GATCOM will take place on Thursday 20 July 2023 at 2.00pm at Gatwick Airport
- The next meeting of the GATCOM Steering Group will take place on Wednesday 28 June at 2.00pm via MS Teams.
- The next meeting of PAG will take place on Friday 16 June 2023 at 1.30pm at Gatwick Airport

Monique Smart
Secretariat