

GATCOM 20 July 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/>

Vice Chairman

Helyn Clack of Surrey County Council was reappointed as Vice Chairman of GATCOM for a further year.

Membership Updates

The following new members were welcomed to GATCOM:

Bob Bowdler – East Sussex County Council
Bob Noyce – Crawley Borough Council
Richard Smith – Tandridge District Council
David McCorquodale – Charlwood Parish Council

The following new substitute members were welcomed to GATCOM:

Victoria Chester – Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Fenella Maitland Smith – Rusper Parish Council
Taylor O'Driscoll – Tandridge District Council

Appointment Of Sub-Groups

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

Regarding the Steering Group membership, it was agreed that all three Surrey District Councils could be representatives for the coming year and that the same offer would be made to West Sussex Districts.

There remain two vacancies on NaTMAG and if any local authority member has an interest they should speak to the secretariat.

REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUP & OTHER MEETINGS

GATCOM Steering Group – Chairman's Report

GATCOM agreed the following recommendation from the Steering Group:

- 1) That a full review of the GATCOM Work Programme takes place at the GATCOM Away Day scheduled for November 2023.
- 2) That Members note the rules/guidelines for GATCOM Member Questions as detailed in section 6.2.
- 3) That Members note the [Annual Air Quality Report](#).

Passenger Advisory Group (PAG) – Chair's Report

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 notes the vacancies on PAG and assists GATCOM in circulating the advert to recruit later in the summer.

Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group (NATMAG)

NATMAG's key messages to GATCOM were noted:

- 1) The Gatwick Noise Insulation Scheme grant has increased to £4,300 plus VAT from 1 May 2023 for eligible properties.
- 2) The CAA has published the DfT-commissioned 'Aircraft Noise and Health Effects: A six-month update (September 2022 – March 2023)', also known as CAP2519, along with CAP2517 on 'The Effects of Aircraft Noise on Biodiversity'.
- 3) Work is progressing well on the Landing Gear Deployment study, which is nearing completion, the Reduced Night Noise Trial, due to begin in September 2023 and the Low Noise Arrivals Metric, expected to be delivered into the NTK system at the end of May 2023.

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

The NMB report was noted. The NMB Chairman welcomed GATCOM having specific updates on Departure Noise Limits and Fines and on the NMB Review. He encouraged all interested to provide feedback and respond to the planned survey on the NMB review.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer presented his report of activity and performance of Gatwick over the previous quarter. The key points to note are:

- Gatwick have increased resources again for this summer. This includes more than 700 security staff and working closely with baggage handlers, retail operators, and airlines to ensure they are well resourced. Gatwick has also worked closely with the DWP to deliver local recruitment fairs with 4 events this year.
- National rail strikes continued to impact services to and from Gatwick throughout the quarter. Transport partners have worked hard during the recent action to provide enhanced services and additional capacity to support passengers to access Gatwick and travel to their onward destinations.
- Gatwick Airport have helped fund a pioneering fleet of 20 hydrogen fuel cell buses that have been deployed on routes in the Crawley, Horley and Gatwick Airport area by The Go-Ahead Group. A further 34 vehicles will join the fleet over the next 18 months to create one of Britain's largest hydrogen bus fleets.
- Following engagement with GATCOM, airlines and passenger representatives, Gatwick has listened to feedback and proposed an extension to the current commitments until 31 March 2029 which incorporates several important enhancements. The CAA are now consulting on GALs proposals.
- The North Terminal refurbishment project is now underway that will include new seating, flooring, signage and planting.
- A new solution for self-bag drop is being trialled with Ryan Air in July. This solution from a start-up called "Airware" will allow passengers to use their airline app to print tags and drop bag, while they are at the bag drop zone. It is expected that this solution will reduce queues and improve the passenger experience.

MEMBER'S QUESTIONS

One question was received in advance from Angie Hills, ABTA.

Question: In regard to the strikes announced. We understand that the exact timing of each strike varies depending on the individual company's shift patterns, but all strikes will begin in the early hours of the morning on the 28 July and 4 August and end in the early hours of the morning on 1 and 8 August. The airlines affected include British Airways, Easyjet, Ryanair, TUI, Westjet and Wizz air. What contingency measures are GAL putting in place to try and minimise disruption and will their website be updated to provide a statement about the strikes in the media centre are and will they publish advise for passengers?

Stewart Wingate, Gatwick CEO, responded: GAL are working closely with the airlines and ground handlers to ensure contingencies and resources are in place. Unite are still in discussion with ground handling companies and it remains a fast-moving issue. If strikes do go ahead, then airlines will need to communicate with passengers directly, but information will be available on GALs website to direct passengers to their airlines as well as useful information on other sites such as ABTA.

NORTHERN RUNWAY DCO - UPDATE

GAL confirmed that the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Northern Runway, had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 6 July.

PINS will assess the information submitted and have 28 days to decide whether the application can be accepted for examination.

Members are encouraged to sign up to alerts from PINS to ensure they get notified as the application progresses. This can be done on the [PINS website](#).

If accepted the Pre-Examination stage will begin. It is during this period when GATCOM will be able to register as an interested party and submit a relevant representation. At this stage we will look to set up a special GATCOM meeting to agree that relevant representation. That meeting would be virtual, via MS Teams. The secretariat will contact members once the date for this stage is known.

AIRSPACE UPDATE

A presentation covering all the Airspace updates can be found [here](#)

Airspace Modernisation: FASI-South

Stage 2 of the CAA's CAP1616 Airspace Change Process - GAL have completed the Initial Options Appraisal and the CAA Stage 2 Gateway assessment is planned for September 2023.

Further stakeholder engagement is planned for July and August, to inform stakeholders of the outcomes of the Initial Options Appraisal.

The timeline for the further development of the Gatwick FASI airspace change proposal may now be impacted by a review, initiated by the Aviation Council, to understand how the process for the development of interdependent airspace changes may best be managed.

Noise Management Board (NMB) Review

GAL provided an update on progress with conducting a review of the NMB second term and setting out plans for the NMB third term. The presentation included a timeline for

the review and detailed the engagement that will take place including an independent survey, as suggested by GATCOM.

It was confirmed that NMB workplan activity would continue in parallel to the review.

Departure Noise Limits and Fines

These are part of a set of statutory noise controls defined by the DfT that GAL are responsible for administering. Through the NMB, GAL have conducted a review of Departure Noise Limits and Fines.

The proposed regime results in aircraft being clustered into groups - based on their assigned noise certification / Quota Count (QC) value for departure and arrival - and differential noise limits applied to different groups. This allows for a more targeted system better suited to the airline fleets operated from Gatwick. Noise monitors positioned at the end of each runway pick up when there is a breach. The associated fines - which would go directly to the Gatwick Airport Community Trust - had been increased and structured to be more punitive in the sensitive night period.

Some final engagement is taking place with airlines prior to a transition period expected to start in late 2023. The proposed scheme will then be submitted to the DfT for approval. It is hoped the new scheme will be in place by Quarter 3 of 2024.

When introduced it is anticipated to be one of the most innovative and challenging schemes in the UK.

Noise Action Plan – Round 4

Further to the presentation at the previous GATCOM, an update was provided on GAL's work to date and plans for engagement related to their Round 4 Noise Action Plan.

The key points to note are:

- NaTMAG is fulfilling the role as primary consultee on behalf of GATCOM, for the purposes of the regulations. They fed back initial thoughts at a meeting in May and are expecting an early draft for review ahead of their August meeting.
- Engagement has also taken place via GATCOM and the NMB.
- Benchmarking has taken place with other comparable airports.
- The draft plan will be submitted to Defra by 1st September 2023.

BRAND IDENTITY AND REFRESHED VISION

Simon Brady, Head of Marketing, GAL, provided a [presentation](#) on GAL's new brand identity and refreshed vision and how this aligns with GAL's values and strategic priorities. Members welcomed the new look and refreshed branding.

CAA CONSULTATION

GATCOM considered a draft response to the CAA consultation seeking views on GAL's proposal to extend the current contracts and commitments by four years.

There was debate between Airlines and Community representatives on the wording in relation to its implication that the pricing of airport charges has environmental consequences. It was hoped that an agreed form of words could be found but if not, the response would simply state the differing views. The deadline for submission of

responses was Friday 28 July and a final version would be emailed out to all GATCOM members prior to submission.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting of GATCOM will take place on Thursday 2 November 2023 at 2.00pm via MS Teams
- The next meeting of the GATCOM Steering Group will take place on Thursday 12 October at 2.00pm – in person at Gatwick Airport.
- The next meeting of PAG will take place on Thursday 28 September 2023 at 2.00pm at Gatwick Airport

Monique Smart
Secretariat