

Minutes of the meeting of the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee (GATCOM) held on 20 July 2023 at the Sofitel, Gatwick Airport .

Present:	
Tom Crowley	Chairman
Cllr Helyn Clack	Surrey County Council
Jonathan Drew	Chair, Noise Management Executive Board
Samantha Williams	Chair, Passenger Advisory Group
Cllr Alan Jones	Burstow Parish Council
Angie Hills	ABTA
Cllr. Liz Kitchen	Horsham District Council
Cllr Richard Smith	Tandridge District Council
Cllr Mike George	Horley Town Council
Cllr Margot McArthur	Kent County Council
Ed Winter	Environmental and Amenity Groups
Cllr. Steve Waight	West Sussex County Council
Colin Stewart	BAR UK
Stuart Pick	London Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Hugh McConnellogue	Gatwick AOC
Cllr. Carolyn Evans	Charlwood Parish Council
Brett North	Gatwick Diamond Business
Rory Lillington	Airlines UK
Cllr. Rosemary Hobbs	Mole Valley District Council
Cllr. Bob Bowdler	East Sussex County Council
Cllr. Michael Jones	Crawley Borough Council
Ana Christie	Sussex Chamber of Commerce
Chris Larkman	Which?

Also in attendance:	
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
Kathy Coffin	Noise Compliance and Reporting Manager, GAL
Will Martin	Technical Director, Noise Consultants
Simon Brady	Head of Marketing, GAL
Monique Smart	GATCOM Secretariat
Graham Lake	GATCOM Technical Advisor

1. Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr Richard Biggs (Reigate and Banstead Borough Council), Cllr Malcolm Fillmore (Rusper Parish Council) Anthony Middleton (C2C LEP), Fran Downton (Tourism SouthEast), Dominic Rothwell (Unite), Rory Lillington (Airlines UK), David McCorquodale (Charlwood Parish Council), Robin Clarke (NATS), Cllr Bob Noyce (Crawley Borough Council)

2. Current Membership List And Representatives

2.1. The Chairman welcomed new members and substitutes to the committee, including Bob Bowdler (East Sussex County Council), Bob Noyce (Crawley Borough Council), Richard Smith (Tandridge District Council), David McCorquodale (Charlwood Parish Council), Victoria Chester (Reigate and Banstead Borough Council substitute), Fenella Maitland Smith (Rusper Parish Council substitute) and Taylor O'Driscoll (Tandridge District Council substitute).

2.2 GATCOM noted the updated membership list.

3. Appointment Of Vice Chairman

3.1. One nomination was received in respect of Helyn Clack, Surrey County Council. Helyn Clack was duly appointed as Vice-Chair of GATCOM for the ensuing year.

4. Minutes Of The Last Meeting

4.1 Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of GATCOM held on 27 April 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

4.2 Cllr Hobbs queried minute 10 of the previous meeting in relation to Noise Preferential Routes (NPRs) and that it stated that no flight path had changed as a result of the redefinition of the NPR. Cllr Hobbs queried this as residents in her ward (Holmwoods and Beare Green) have raised concern about the flight path stating that departures on this route are flying more northwards than before as they circle to make the turn to fly east and many residents in the area now find themselves newly overflown. GAL responded explaining that the information in the minutes was correct and there was no change in the flight path as a result of the redefinition of the NPR.

5. GATCOM Steering Group – Chairman's Report

5.1 The Chairman of GATCOM introduced his report (copies attached to the signed minutes) of the last Steering Group Meeting on 7 July 2023:

5.2 GATCOM agreed the following recommendations as detailed in the report:

- That a full review of the GATCOM Work Programme takes place at the GATCOM Away Day scheduled for November 2023.
- That Members note the rules/guidelines for GATCOM Member Questions as detailed in section 6.2.

The following recommendations was omitted from the report, but GATCOM agreed to:

- Note the Annual Air Quality Report, attached as an appendix to the Steering group report and that it should be added to the GATCOM website.

6. Passenger Advisory Group (PAG) – Chair's Report

6.1 The Chair of PAG introduced her report (copies attached to the signed minutes) of the last PAG meeting that took place on 16 June 2023 and activities during the last quarter. In addition, the PAG Chairman highlighted the following:

- PAG members Claire and Sheila have been involved in the recent PRM tender assisting with scoring. It is hoped the result of the tender process will be known soon.
- PAG have also been involved in North Terminal Departure Lounge expansion and refurbishment projects.

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.

7. Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group (NATMAG)

7.1 Mike George, GATCOM's lead member for noise introduced his report (copies attached to the signed minutes) that summarised the key messages and recommendations arising from recent meetings.

7.2 It was highlighted that as well as their usual meeting, NaTMAG have also had an extraordinary meeting to specifically discuss the NAP Round 4. This was ahead of the circulation of a draft plan so comments and views were based on the current NAP. The main comment was that the plan should be target driven and understandable to the public. NaTMAG were expecting a draft of the Round 4 NAP ahead of their next meeting in August where more specific comments could be made.

7.2 GATCOM noted the report and NATMAG's key messages as detailed below:

- 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.

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

8.1 Jonathan Drew, Co-Chair of the NMB, introduced his report (copies attached to The signed minutes) that summarised the key messages and recommendations arising from recent meetings. 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.

8.2 A question was asked about progress on the issue of land use planning. The Co-Chair responded referred to the item in his report and said that the DfT and SASIG need specific examples so if any GATCOM member is aware of specific cases where houses built under flightpaths have resulted in noise complaints, they are encouraged to feed those in via the NMB.

8.3 GATCOM noted the report.

9. Chief Executive Officer's Report

9.1 Stewart Wingate, Chief Executive Officer, GAL, introduced his quarterly report. (copy attached to the signed minutes) and highlighted the key points and activity at the airport over the past quarter:

- 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.

9.2 Cllr Bob Bowdler asked if any specific job fairs or targeted advertising takes place in East Sussex for Gatwick jobs. GAL responded stating that most advertising is done via the internet and social media, but they would be happy to look at any opportunities for job fairs in East Sussex ahead of next year's summer season.

9.3 A member asked if GAL provide travel advise to those travelling to those European countries currently experiencing extremely high temperatures. GAL responded stating that Airlines hold the details of passengers so are best placed to offer advise on specific issues for those travelling to those destinations. Government advise would come via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It was also noted that ABTA provide consumer advise via their website.

9.4 Gatwick Diamond Business asked GAL to work with them to further explore engaging with local businesses to bring in more local contractors as a result of the many new routes opening up from Gatwick. GAL confirmed they would be happy to follow this up via Gatwick Diamond Business.

10. Member's Questions

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

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?

The response from Stewart Wingate was:

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.

11. Northern Runway Project – Update

11.1 Tim Norwood, Director of Corporate Affairs, Planning & Sustainability, GAL an update on the DCO Process. The key points to note were:

- 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 would then begin.

11.2 The Secretariat confirmed that during the pre-examination period GATCOM will be able to register as an interested party and submit a relevant representation. At this stage, a special GATCOM meeting may need to be arranged to agree that relevant representation. That meeting would be virtual, via MS Teams.

12. Brand Identity And Refreshed Vision

12.1 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.

13. Airspace Update

Airspace Modernisation: FASI-South

13.1 Andy Sinclair, Head of Noise and Airspace Strategy provided an update on the FASI-South Project. He explained that GAL have completed the Initial Options Appraisal and the CAA Stage 2 Gateway assessment is planned for September 2023.

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

13.3 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

13.4 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.

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

14. Departure Noise Limits and Fines

14.1 Andy Sinclair, Head of Noise and Airspace Strategy provided a short presentation detailing the GAL review of Departure Noise Limits and Fines. He explained that 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.

14.2 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. 'Fixed' 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.

14.3 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.

14.4 A question was asked about why GAL have proposed lower fines than some other airports and that some other airports have decided on fines that increase further depending on how far above the limit they exceed. GAL explained that the proposals for Gatwick are designed around the lighter fleet mix operated at Gatwick the more stringent noise limits and it is related to the extent of the impact.

14.5 It was confirmed that this departure noise limits proposal would operate alongside the existing air traffic movement and culminative QC caps that limited noise in the core night period (2330-0600). Beyond this scheme for the monitoring of departure noise breaches GAL will continue to assess noise via a fleet of noise monitors positioned up to 20 miles from the airport. Separately the DfT will be undertaking a consultation on the night flights regime for the designated airports later this year.

15. Noise Action Plan – Round 4

15.1 Andy Sinclair, Head of Noise and Airspace Strategy provided a short presentation that updated on GAL's work to date and plans for engagement related to their Round 4 Noise Action Plan.

15.2 It was noted that NaTMAG is fulfilling the role as primary consultee on behalf of GATCOM, for the purposes of the regulations. NaTMAG had fed back initial thoughts at a meeting in May and are expecting a skeleton of the revised plan for review ahead of their August meeting. Engagement has also taken place via GATCOM and the NMB.

15.3 The draft plan will be submitted to Defra by 1st September 2023.

15.4 There was discussion about the Noise Management Board Workplan and how that is reflected in the NAP. It is suggested, and has been discussed with NMB Co-Chairs, to have a fairly generic item in the NAP about this to enable changes to be made by the NMB. If the NAP is too prescriptive, then changes cannot be made to it without full consultation and re-submission to Defra. It was agreed that during the period of the NAP it must be able to bring in issues more dynamically to improve on noise performance and therefore the wording needs to be sufficiently flexible to allow this.

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

16. CAA Consultation on GAL's Proposal to Extend Current Commitments

16.1 GATCOM considered the draft response (copy appended to the signed minutes) to the CAA consultation seeking views on GAL's proposal to extend the current contracts and commitments by four years.

16.2 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.

16.3 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.

17. Appointment to Sub Groups

17.1. GATCOM received the Secretariat's report setting out for approval the appointments to be made to GATCOM's sub-groups and other bodies (copy attached to the signed minutes).

17.2 The Secretariat drew members attention to paragraph 2.3 that had a request from Surrey District Councils to all be members of the Steering Group for the coming year due to the significance of the DCO process. It was therefore recommended for GATCOM to approve this and offer the same to West Sussex District Councils once Mid Sussex District Council have appointed members to GATCOM.

17.3 A question was asked as to why East Sussex County Council was not represented on the Steering Group. It was agreed that the Chairman and Secretariat would look into the history and membership of the Steering Group and report back.

17.4 Resolved – That GATCOM:

- 1) Appoints members to the GATCOM Steering Group and Passenger Advisory Group as set out paragraph 2.3 and 2.4 of the report;
- 2) Appoints members to GALs NaTMAG for a period of 2 years as set out in paragraph 2.7 of the report and note that 2 vacancies remain.
- 3) That the secretariat be asked to seek nominations for the position of GATCOMs Lead Member for Noise and Deputy Lead Member for Noise from those members appointed to NaTMAG.

18. Date of Next Meeting of GATCOM and its Sub-Groups

18.1 GATCOM noted the next meetings of GATCOM and its sub-groups as follows:

- 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

Chairman

The meeting concluded at 3.45pm.