

# **GATCOM 2 NOVEMBER 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/>

## **REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUP & OTHER MEETINGS**

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

GATCOM agreed the following recommendation from the Steering Group:

- That GATCOM note the outcomes of the [UKAACs research of ACCs](#) and GATCOMs positive position and agree to produce a press release to publicise the outcome.

In addition, the Chairman drew members attention to the update on the NMB review and that there will be a transition period where the work and membership of the existing NMB will continue. The Chairman proposed that the NEX Chair remains a member of GATCOM during this transition period and this was agreed by GATCOM.

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

GATCOM welcomed the reappointment of Samantha Williams as PAG Chair and Claire Booth as PAG Vice Chair.

It was noted that the interview for PAG vacancies would be taking place soon.

GATCOM agreed the following recommendation from PAG: 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)**

NATMAG's key message to GATCOM was that the discussion from NCL presenting on the Round 4 NAP actions and skeleton plan was found to be very useful. NaTMAG had been able to contribute and comment on the draft plan before it was submitted to Defra. Sign off by Defra was expected in the first quarter 2024.

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

The NMB report was noted.

It was confirmed that the 2<sup>nd</sup> term of the NMB was drawing to a close and that London Gatwick would update on plan for the future of the NMB later in December. As previously mentioned there would be a transition period where the current Co-Chairs and workplan would continue.

The [NEX report](#) summarising the NMB second term workplan items, achievements and continuing projects was circulated to GATCOM members.

It was also agreed that GATCOM writes a short note to the Department for Transport, copied to the Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing, asking senior officials to incorporate a policy on aviation noise and land use planning in the Noise Policy Statement for England. The Co-Chairs will supply appropriate wording to the GATCOM Chair & Secretariat.

## **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:

- Baroness Margaret Ford of Cunninghame is the new Chair of London Gatwick. Sir David Higgins will remain as a non-executive Director. It was hoped Baroness Ford would attend a GATCOM meeting next year.
- Whilst the NATS technical issue on August bank holiday was challenging for all, there were further challenges in September that resulted in a temporary limit on daily flight movements until 1st October. The decision was made alongside NATS, who were experiencing 30% of their staff being unavailable for a variety of medical reasons including COVID. London Gatwick continues to work with NATS to build resilience.
- The five-year Capital Investment Programme was published in July with over £2billion of investment in facilities and services.
- The CAA's latest accessibility report has rated London Gatwick as 'Very Good.'
- Gatwick will serve 210 destinations by the end of 2023 making it one of the best-connected airports in Europe.
- The upgrading and improvements at Gatwick's Rail Station is expected to be completed by the end of this year.
- It was noted that the PINS website to register as an interested party for the Northern Runway DCO, had technical issues on the final day. Both Gatwick and GATCOM confirmed a response was awaited from PINS. Post meeting note – the website has re-opened until 19 November.
- GATCOM welcomed London Gatwick signing the Armed Forces Covenant.

## **MEMBER'S QUESTIONS**

One question was received in advance from Cllr Helyn Clack, GATCOM Vice Chair and representative from Surrey County Council:

I have recently been approached by county councillor colleague asking if I would like to use my members grant funding to make a donation to River Mole Watch

<https://www.rivermoleriverwatch.org.uk/>

The Mole arises just south of the airport and travels northwards underneath the runway emerging in the Parish of Charlwood and Hookwood and onwards through Surrey to the River Thames. What work is being undertaken by the airport to regularly test the water quality in the river in the Gatwick vicinity, Does the airport monitor pollution and report events in the river? How does the airport support the work of the River Mole River Watch?

The response from London Gatwick was:

All of London Gatwick's water discharges to the River Mole are lab tested at least weekly. Furthermore, any discharges that may contain de-icer are monitored 24/7 to ensure that this contamination is diverted to our pollution lagoons and then treated at

the Sewage treatment works. In addition, since 2010 we have monitored the long-term health of our local river environment, by undertaking quarterly, in river, biological monitoring. This data indicates that our discharges are not having any detrimental impact on local water ecology.

Downstream of our main discharge we have a device which monitors critical water parameters and reports to a cloud-based monitoring site. We share this information with the EA. In recent years this has helped us, and the EA respond quickly to both pollution (not London Gatwick source) and natural environmental events. In both cases we provided equipment and resources to assist in the efforts to minimise impact to fish and other wildlife. London Gatwick are often the primary reporters of pollution events in the local rivers and streams. We often go on to help remediate these events by deploying our equipment including oil booms or oxygenation pumps and on occasions have even traced the upstream sources to assist the EA.

We are formalising a partnership with River Mole River Watch to show commitment in promoting local water stewardship.

We have extended financial support (£1,500) to provide essential testing equipment that ensures the continuation of their testing program for at least this year.

### **GREAT BRITISH RAILWAY TRANSITION TEAM**

GATCOM welcomed Emily James, Stakeholder Engagement Lead, Great British Railways Transition Team, who provided GATCOM with a [presentation](#) and overview of her teams work and plans for rail reform.

### **GOVIA THAMESLINK RAIL SERVICES UPDATE**

GATCOM welcomed Tim Aveline and Paul Codd from Govia Thameslink who provided a presentation (to follow) and update on rail services at Gatwick.

Members welcomed the two Rail updates and raised the following issues:

- The new Rail Station was welcomed but the lack of access for local residents was of concern and some members felt this could be improved.
- It was confirmed there was adequate capacity on the Brighton mainline for additional passengers should the DCO progress.
- The Croydon Area Remodelling Schemes was on hold due to lack of funding from the treasury.
- It was confirmed that improvements to the East/West rail services were being implemented from December with services becoming half hourly. This was part funded by London Gatwick through the Transport Fund.
- Some members questioned why the Gatwick Express was still a premium price when it was no longer a premium service, but it was confirmed this is still considered to be a separate service to the commuter service.
- There were no plans to extend the hours of service either earlier or later. This was due to the fact that Network Rail need time for track maintenance.
- It was confirmed that GBRTT were working closely with the DfT, and a consultation was planned on accessibility.

## **AIRSPACE UPDATE**

### **Airspace Modernisation: FASI-South**

The Design Principle Evaluation (DPE) and the Initial Options Appraisal (IOA) have been completed and were submitted to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for review at the Future Airspace Strategy Implementation - South (FASI-S) for Gatwick (ACP-2018-60) project Stage 2 Gateway. The decision to proceed to stage 3, the consultation stage, has been approved.

The Department for Transport and the CAA are exploring drawing all individual airspace change projects together under a unified delivery model through a single design entity (SDE). As the scope, process and timeline for this initiative is in development the project schedule for Gatwick's airspace change is uncertain.

It was noted that the CAA has published the revised CAP1616 Airspace Change process. It was not yet known what affect this would have but it would be discussed more at the next NaTMAG meeting.

It was confirmed that the details of this year's Noise and Airspace Annual Public Meeting being held on 6th December would be circulated very soon.

### **Appointment Of Sub-Groups**

GATCOM agreed the appointment of Cllr Victoria Chester (Reigate and Banstead Borough Council) to NaTMAG.

There remains one vacancy on NaTMAG and if any local authority member has an interest they should speak to the secretariat.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- The next meeting of GATCOM will take place on Thursday 25 January 2024 at 2.00pm in person at Gatwick Airport
- The next meeting of the GATCOM Steering Group will take place on Thursday 11 January at 2.00pm via MS Teams
- The next meeting of PAG will take place on Thursday 7 December 2023

Members and officers were reminded that the **GATCOM Away Day** that will be taking place on Monday 13 November at the Holiday Inn, Worth, Crawley. Diary invites have been sent and the programme for the day will follow.

**Monique Smart**  
**Secretariat**