

# **GATCOM 25 JANUARY 2024**

## **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/>

### **GATCOM STEERING GROUP – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

GATCOM agreed the following recommendation from the Steering Group:

1. That GATCOM consider the Secretariat report in relation to the GATCOM Away Day as detailed at Agenda Item 4.
2. That GATCOM consider the response to the DfT consultation on airport slot allocation system reform as detailed at Agenda Item 5.
3. That GATCOM note the [consultation response](#) on the Northern Runway Project Proposed Changes that was submitted to London Gatwick on 19 January.
4. That GATCOM note the detail of the Secretariat report of the UKAACs annual meeting.

In addition, the Chair highlighted that the timetable and process for the examination stage of the Northern Runway DCO had been published. This was detailed in section 2 of the Steering Group report.

### **GATCOM AWAY DAY**

GATCOM considered the secretariats report detailing the discussions and recommendations from the GATCOM away day that took place in November 2023. GATCOM agreed the following 9 recommendations:

1. Continue with the current meeting arrangement of alternating between in person. and virtual meetings for GATCOM and GATCOM Steering Group.
2. In partnership with London Gatwick, liaise with Surrey County Council, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council and Crawley Borough Council about using their Council Chambers and hybrid equipment for a future GATCOM meeting.
3. Look into an alternative room set up for future in-person GATCOM meetings.
4. Consider subject specific surgeries or workshops prior to the in-person meetings.
5. Add Executive Summaries to all GATCOM reports.
6. Agree that East Sussex County Council have a place on the GATCOM Steering Group.
7. Create a member handbook for GATCOM.

8. Agree the GATCOM Work Programme 2024/25 – attached as appendix A.

9. Amend the title of the Environment and Amenities Groups on GATCOM to Environment Groups.

Following discussion and a vote from GATCOM members, the following recommendation was **rejected**:

10. Increase the number of seats for Environment Groups on GATCOM from 2 to 3 by making use of the vacant seat created by the transfer of functions from the LEP to Upper Tier Councils (who are already members of GATCOM) from April 2024. And that a process, taking account of the conclusions reached at the awayday, be developed and agreed for the selection and term of environmental groups to serve as members of GATCOM.

## **CONSULTATION ON AIRPORT SLOT ALLOCATION SYSTEM REFORM**

GATCOM noted the briefing and [draft consultation response](#).

As stated at paragraph 4.2 of the Steering Group report members agreed that GATCOM should respond to this consultation with comments to ensure opportunities for environmental improvements, resilience and better use of airspace.

GATCOM heard from Seb Pelissier of EasyJet who explained that adding environmental factors would complicate the system and that this was covered by other regulations. Airlines could therefore not support the draft GATCOM response in its current form. It was also noted that the AOC would be meeting on 7 February, after which time they would hope to be able to submit a collective position from the Airlines.

London Gatwick stated that they agreed with the Government objectives that any revised system should stimulate a competitive environment by creating an efficient, transparent, and dynamic slot market; and establishing a framework for the allocation of new slots.

GATCOM agreed that the draft response be amended after 7 February, based on expected further comments from the Airlines and the Airport and that it be circulated to all members for final comment before being approved by the Chair and submitted to the DfT by 8 March 2024.

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Tim Norwood, Director of Planning and Corporate Affairs, shared apologies from Stewart Wingate and presented the Chief Executive Officer report of activity and performance of Gatwick over the previous quarter. Questions from members included the following:

- London Gatwick stated that little change was expected as a result of the intended acquisition of GIP, one of London Gatwick's major shareholders, by BlackRock.
- Regarding the recent consultation of the three proposed changes to the Northern Runway Project, London Gatwick confirmed that the consultation had included leaflets delivered to local residents, national and local media releases, social media posts and meetings with Local Authorities and Parish Councils. It was noted that a telephone helpline and email address was also set up for any

questions about the proposals. The consultation had now closed and lots of responses had been received. These would be collated and submitted with a report to PINS. If the changes are accepted by PINS, then it would be brought into the examination and there would be an opportunity to comment further as part of the examination process.

- Following the official opening event for the new Gatwick Train Station, members praised the cooperation between organisations for this project. However, members asked London Gatwick and GATCOM to continue to work with Network Rail and train operators to streamline ticketing and increase the hours of rail operations around Gatwick.
- Due to the short-term restrictions that had had to be put in place in December, staffing in the Air Traffic Control was discussed. London Gatwick confirmed that they are still working closely with NATs to manage any disruption.
- In respect of the increase to the forecourt drop-off charge at the airport, members raised concerns that one postcode area in Horley was not included in the local exemption scheme. It was mentioned that many local residents outside the scheme do not have public transport as an option so have to drive to the airport. It was also questioned why electric vehicles have to pay the charge. London Gatwick explained that the main purpose of the scheme was to disincentivise people from making the least sustainable 'kiss and fly' journeys to and from the airport by car although they could still drop off in the long stay car parks free of charge and use the free shuttle service to the airport should they wish.

## **GATWICK EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

London Gatwick provided a [presentation](#) that detailed the many different aspects of the education programme at London Gatwick including the newly opened STEM centre, the Endeavour STEM Programme, Career Live Broadcasts, Apprenticeships and Graduate Programme. This is generating a significant number of engagement opportunities for school children and students from across Sussex, Surrey and Kent.

If members want more information on this or to visit the STEM centre, they should contact the team at [STEM@gatwickairport.com](mailto:STEM@gatwickairport.com)

## **MEMBER'S QUESTIONS**

Two questions were received in advance from Angie Hills of ABTA and Chris Larkman of Which? The full questions and answers from London Gatwick can be found [here](#)

## **NEW ECONOMICS FOUNDATION**

Alex Chapman, Senior Economist from the New Economics Foundation provided a [presentation](#) and summary of his recently published report – Losing Altitude.

## **AIRSPACE UPDATE**

### **Airspace Modernisation - Gatwick FASI-South**

- GAL passed its Stage 2 Gateway (options development and options appraisal) in October 2023.

- Stage 3 (Consultation Preparation) is currently paused to allow for consideration of the concept of a single design entity (SDE). The scope, process and timeline for this work is being developed by the DFT and CAA and will be subject to public consultation during Q2/3 2024 if taken forward.
- The impact and delay to GAL's Airspace Change Process is currently unknown. However, GAL is exploring with the CAA, ACOG and NATS opportunities for an initial deployment of the FASI-S route structure to the south of London Gatwick.
- The deployment split process will be captured and explained in the upcoming UK Airspace Change Masterplan Iteration 3. ([Iteration 2 CAP2312B](#))
- GAL (with NATS) are holding stakeholder engagement sessions in January to introduce the ACOG-led public engagement exercise which will set out Airspace Change Masterplan Iteration 3 (including the mechanism for split deployment of the GAL FASI-South airspace change).
- Stage 3 Gateway is anticipated for January 2025. Public consultation was planned for Q1 2025.

#### **Route 4**

- Stage 3 is in progress. Consultation Preparation including Full Options Appraisal has commenced.
- The CAA have indicated that most recent track performance statistics should be used in producing the indicative baseline data. The CAA have also confirmed that from Stage 3 onwards, GAL will need to comply with the CAP1616 version 5, which requires additional environmental analyses to be conducted (Habitats Regulations Assessment).
- Due to these clarifications, Gatwick is estimating additional work and slight delay to completion and subsequent stages.
- The Public Consultation is planned for Q4 2024.

#### **NOISE MANAGEMENT BOARD (NMB) – EXECUTIVE BOARD (NEX) REPORT**

The NMB report was noted. The main issue to highlight was the NMB meeting with the CAA that was due to take place on 12 February with a focus on the FASI-South process for Gatwick and next steps.

#### **NOISE AND TRACK MONITORING ADVISORY GROUP (NATMAG)**

NATMAG's key message to GATCOM were noted. The main issues to highlight were:

- The outcome of the NAP 4 (2024-2028) review was expected in February.
- NaTMAG meets on 1 February. If Members have any new noise concerns, they are encouraged to inform NaTMAG, via the GATCOM Secretariat.
- There is still a vacancy for a GATCOM Councillor to join NaTMAG. Any members interested should speak to Cllr Mike George, Lead Member for Noise, or the GATCOM Secretariat.

#### **PASSENGER ADVISORY GROUP (PAG) – CHAIR'S REPORT**

The PAG Chair highlighted to GATCOM the recent work of PAG and how they are regularly kept up to date on issues such as the ATC staffing and the next generation security scanners and how these may affect passengers.

Three new PAG members had been recruited and GATCOM welcomed them on board.

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.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- The next meeting of GATCOM will take place on Thursday 16 May 2024 at 2.00pm.
- The next meeting of the GATCOM Steering Group will take place on Thursday 18 April 2024 at 10.00am.
- The next meeting of PAG will take place on Thursday 21 March 2024 at 1.30pm

**Monique Smart**  
**Secretariat**