

Minutes of the meeting of the Special Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee (GATCOM) held on 26 October 2023, virtually via MS Teams.

Present:	
Ana Christie	Sussex Chamber of Commerce
Angie Hills	ABTA
Brett North	Gatwick Diamond Business
Chris Larkman	Which?
Cllr Bob Bowdler	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Bob Noyce	Crawley Borough Council
Cllr Eddie Lord	Burstow Parish Council
Cllr Fenella Maitland-Smith	Rusper Parish Council
Cllr Helyn Clack	Surrey County Council
Cllr Lisa Scott	Charlwood Parish Council
Cllr Liz Kitchen	Horsham District Council
Cllr Margaret Cooksey	Mole Valley District Council
Cllr Margot McArthur	Kent County Council
Cllr Mike George	Horley Town Council
Cllr Richard Biggs	Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Cllr Steve Waight	West Sussex County Council
Ed Winter	Environmental and Amenity Groups
Jo Rettie	Gatwick AOC
Jonathan Drew	Chair, Noise Management Executive Board
Rory Lillington	Airlines UK
Stephen Jones	London Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Tom Crowley	Chairman

Also in attendance:	
Alison Addy	Head of External Engagement & Policy, London Gatwick
Monique Smart	GATCOM Secretariat
Graham Lake	GATCOM Technical Advisor

1. Apologies for absence were received from:

Samantha Williams (Chair Passenger Advisory Group) Cllr Alan Jones (Burstow Parish Council) Cllr Richard Smith (Tandridge District Council), Cllr Malcolm Fillmore (Rusper Parish Council) Anthony Middleton (C2C LEP), Cllr. Rosemary Hobbs (Mole Valley District Council), Hugh McConnellogue (AOC), Julie Mockford (Mid Sussex District Council)

2. GATCOMs relevant representation submission for Gatwick Airports Northern Runway Development Consent Order (DCO)

2.1 The Committee noted the previously circulated covering report that detailed the DCO timeline and process and GATCOMs previously agreed position which was to make representations to the Planning Inspectorate at the appropriate stages, on matters previously identified by the committee in pre submission consultations.
Chairman.

2.2 The Chairman explained that due to its varied membership, GATCOM can neither support or oppose GAL's proposals, nor document every view expressed by individual members, but we could highlight areas where members reach a common view or understanding and make representations which encourage steps to minimise impacts, mitigate their effects and secure appropriate infrastructure.

2.3 The Secretariat explained that since the DCO was accepted by PINS in August 2023, The GATCOM Chair, Vice Chair, Secretariat and Technical Advisor have met various GATCOM members and support officers to discuss views and opinions on the DCO and asked what organisations will be including in their individual relevant representation submissions.

2.4 GAL have also provided GATCOM with an 'issues tracker' that details the issues we have raised in the pre submission consultations, and GALs response to those issues and where information can be found in the DCO documentation.

2.5 A draft relevant representation was collated and sent to GATCOM members for comment prior to public circulation. Some comments were received and those were included in the draft that was published on Friday 13 October. Then late on Monday 16 and early on Tuesday 17 detailed comments were received from various members and in order to give full and fair consideration to those, it was decided to postpone the special meeting to 26 October. Those detailed comments were circulated to all members with an opportunity to comment prior to a further revised draft being published on Tuesday 24 October. The revised draft, before the meeting today, incorporates some amendments, additions and deletions that the Chairman and Secretariat feel are acceptable and consistent with what GATCOM have previously stated. There are some suggested amendments that have not been included as they are not consistent, or go against, what GATCOM has previously said. The new draft also highlights some proposals that GATCOM is asked to debate and agree today.

2.6 The committee proceeded to go through the draft relevant representation as follows:

The first five paragraphs of introduction and context

2.7 The only suggested change to that section was to include the words 'environmental sustainability' in the final sentence of the fifth paragraph when talking about the balance of priorities between economic development and local communities' wellbeing. This was agreed by GATCOM.

The following six paragraphs headed 'Surface Access'

2.8 There was some debate about the last sentence in paragraph five. Some members suggested that GATCOM should not state that local road improvement should be funded by Central Government, and it should be GAL that fund these. Others highlighted that the main point to be put forward here was that Local Authorities and therefore local tax payers should not have to fund local road improvements needed as a result of the Northern Runway Project. The majority of members agreed that the sentence should remain as it was and include Central Government and GAL as possible funders of local road improvements. However, Airlines wished it to be noted that they neither opposed nor supported this.

The following paragraph titled 'Noise'

2.9 For this section there were some specific proposals put forward in advance that were detailed in the draft relevant representation.

2.10 GACC had put forward in advance that the following wording be added to this section: *GATCOM notes that no commitments have been made in respect of future levels of night flights and is not persuaded that the requirements of the Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS) have been satisfied in this respect.*

2.11 As detailed on the draft relevant representation, the Secretariat suggested the first half of the sentence could be added but the second half in relation to ANPS should not be included. GATCOM's Technical Advisor added that although the ANPS should be considered by planners in relation to airport expansion in the South East, Gatwick was a designated airport and therefore any decision or changes to night flights would be for the secretary of state and would be subject to separate consultation outside of the DCO process.

2.12 Some members raised concern stating the inclusion of the additional wording would suggest there will be an increase in night flight but that was not known or stated in the DCO.

2.13 Airline representative suggested that GATCOM should look to follow the wording put forward recently by Baroness Vere of Norbiton and they could provide that wording if needed.

2.14 Some members stated support for the inclusion of the first sentence but few stated support for the second part of the sentence. The Chairman therefore asked for a show of virtual hands to gauge support and concluded that the GACC inclusion of words was not supported but that the Secretariat's suggestion to just include the first half of the sentence was supported. Therefore '*GATCOM notes that no commitments have been made in respect of future levels of night flights*' would be added to the final relevant representation.

2.15 The Chairman then highlighted the Airline representatives request to delete the whole paragraph titled 'Noise'. It was noted that this subject and the points covered in the paragraph had previously been agreed and included in the GATCOM pre submission consultation responses to GAL. It was therefore agreed by the majority of members that it would not be appropriate to remove and to leave the paragraph in with the amendment previously agreed.

The following four paragraphs titled 'Noise Envelope'.

2.16 GACC had suggested the following wording be added to the first paragraph: *As a result, GATCOM is not persuaded that stakeholder views have been sufficiently fully reflected in the noise envelope proposals including in respect of metrics, limits and policy compliance. GATCOM would therefore like to see further engagement on this key issue and new proposals brought forward.*

2.17 Some members spoke in support of including this wording and therefore the Chairman asked for a show of virtual hands to gauge support and concluded that the vast majority of members did support the inclusion of this additional wording. It was therefore agreed to include it in the final submission.

2.17 The Committee went on to discuss the paragraph that Airline representatives had asked to be deleted from the final submission. This was: *GATCOM's environment*

and amenity group representative are however disappointed that would not happen until after the next Noise Action Plan is reviewed in 2029 and would call for this to be implemented immediately should the DCO not proceed.

2.18 There was agreement amongst members that this was not relevant to the Planning Inspectorate and would be subject to a separate consultation process. All members, including GACC therefore agreed that the wording should not be included in the final submission.

2.19 Airline representative had also asked that the following paragraph be deleted: *Clarity is needed regarding regulation of a Noise Envelope and the assignment of a responsible party for such regulation. Several Local Authorities members wish to have a regulatory role in the Noise Envelope that would involve reviewing and approving submissions and would allow action to be taken in the event of a breach.*

2.20 Many Local Authority members spoke in support of retaining this paragraph and it was agreed that some form regulation was required and that the current DCO documentation did not give that detail. Once again, the Chairman asked for a show of virtual hands and the majority of members supported leaving this paragraph in the final submission.

The following four paragraphs titled 'Climate Change and Emissions'.

2.21 It was suggested that in the second paragraph when talking about a carbon reduction trajectory for airport emissions that GATCOM should be more aspirational with its request and state for airport '*related*' emissions. This was agreed and would therefore be included in the final submission.

Recommendations

2.22 The following recommendations were approved:

1. GATCOM considered the draft relevant representation circulated on 24 October and subject to the amendments detailed in these minutes agreed it be submitted to PINS by 29 October 2023.
2. Authorise the Chairman, in consultation with the Vice Chairman to finalise the document if necessary to reflect changes agree at the meeting.

2.23 Members were reminded to submit their own relevant representations to ensure that their own or their organisations views were fully represented.

3. Date of the next meeting

3.1 Members noted the date of the next meeting of GATCOM as Thursday 2 November at 2pm via MS Teams.

The meeting concluded at 3.45pm.