

GATCOM AGENDA ITEM 6 – MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS

Question from Alan Jones

Discussions are already in hand for a s106 Agreement if the Northern Runway DCO is approved. However, the existing s106 Agreement between GAL, West Sussex County and Crawley BC has been extended twice in recent times.

Within the current s106, Gatwick Airport Community Trust Charity was adopted and has been operational for 23 years. It is not included in the proposed new s106 so GATCOM will no longer have a Trustee representative to the charitable process.

Apart from the generous grant money that GAL have made available over the years, airline noise fines have also been directed to GACT but there have been very few. Recently, we were presented at GATCOM with a new approach to fining airlines based on noise infringements from three different types (chapter) of aircraft and this could lead to a higher level of fines. There does not appear to be any indication how GAL propose these fines will be used?

If the DCO were to be unsuccessful, would the current s106 agreement be extended yet again and would GACT be the organization that would administer this money in addition to other monies?

Response from Gatwick Airport Limited

The current s106 agreement expires at the end of 2024. GAL has already met with officers from Crawley Borough Council (CBC) and West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) to commence discussions on extending the life of the existing s106 Agreement beyond 31st December 2024. All parties agreed that the existing agreement and its obligations should be extended through a ‘light touch’ review for a further 12 months until the 31st December 2025. All parties also considered that, by the end of 2025, the outcome of the Northern Runway Project (NRP) Development Consent Order (DCO) application should be known. GAL confirmed its intention, should consent be granted for the NRP DCO, to ensure there would be no break between the existing s106 Agreement and any Agreement associated with the NRP DCO coming into force. It was recognised that this transition could occur before the end of 2025 and would be subject to reviewing the details of the NRP DCO decision when it becomes available.

Discussions on a NRP s106 Agreement are currently on-going with the joint local authorities as part of the NRP Examination process. This makes provision for a new London Gatwick Community Fund which would replace the Gatwick Airport Community Trust. GAL can confirm that the intention is that fines associated with departure noise limits would go directly into the London Gatwick Community Fund, in the event of a new NRP s106 agreement taking effect.

In circumstances where the NRP did not receive consent, then GAL would consider appropriate next steps for the existing s106 Agreement in that context by the end of 2025.