

GATCOM 16 MAY 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 the GATCOM Chair should contact DEFRA and/or the DfT and ask why the Gatwick Noise Action Plan (2024-2028) has not yet been signed off by the Secretary of State.
2. That GATCOM ask UKACCs to consider the GACC paper on the 'Compensation For The Effects Of Airspace Change' and whether they would support asking the DfT to add this issue to the next meeting of the Airspace and Noise Engagement Group (ANEG).
3. That GATCOM consider the response to the DfT consultation on night flight regime for Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted from October 2025 as detailed in agenda item 10.
4. That GATCOM agree the following recommendations in relation to future meeting arrangements:
 - That alternative venues for GATCOM meetings are not pursued for the immediate future.
 - Alternative venues should be used for GATCOM Away Days.
 - That the option of hybrid meetings is not pursued for the immediate future.
5. That GATCOM agree that a rule should be put in place to not allow filming, recording or photography of GATCOM meetings and that a statement be agreed to add to each agenda.
6. That GATCOM note that C2C LEP are no longer a member of GATCOM and that options for the vacant seat will be considered at the next GATCOM Away Day.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer presented his report of activity and performance of London Gatwick over the previous quarter. The key points to note are:

- London Gatwick has seen continued growth with 40.9 million passengers passing through the airport in 2023.
- During 2023 the airport hit 99% of all measured core service level requirements.
- Mark Johnston joined GAL in March as the new Chief Operating Officer
- London Gatwick has recently welcomed several key stakeholders to the airport, including the Prime Minister, during his visit to see Border Force, the new Aviation Minister Anthony Browne MP and local MP, Henry Smith. Baroness Ford, the new GAL Chair has also been out meeting stakeholders and hopes to attend a future GATCOM meeting.

- The new Rapid Exit Taxiway (RET) has opened. This enables arriving aircraft to leave the main runway at a more optimal location after landing which will improve the overall efficiency of the airfield, reduce delays and go-arounds, at the same time as helping to reduce emissions.
- A partnership between Metrobus, West Sussex, Surrey and Kent County Councils and London Gatwick has won a bid for funding to launch a new fleet of 43 hydrogen buses. Prior to the GATCOM meeting, GATCOM members took a ride on one of the buses as well as visiting the new Gatwick Rail Station and GRIDSERVE the new electric forecourt at Gatwick. All these projects contribute towards Gatwick's aim to reduce emissions from transport used to reach the airport and GATCOM members congratulated Gatwick on these great projects.
- The North Terminal Departure Lounge refurbishment has seen considerable progress including new seating, flooring, wall finishes, a new airline information desk, more flight information screens, a quiet zone and introduction of plants and greenery.
- London Gatwick has welcomed a number of new airlines including China Southern, Air China, China Eastern, Swiss and Air Peace.
- In 2023, London Gatwick donated its highest ever amount of over £750,000 to local charities and initiatives. Through a number of schemes and match funding, Gatwick have been able to support local charities across Sussex, Surrey, Kent and beyond.
- The Northern Runway plans are undergoing a formal examination stage which started at the end of February and will run through to the end of August. All elements of the project proposals are subject to detailed scrutiny for the next six months through a mix of written submissions and public hearings by a panel of five independent inspectors. Project updates can be found here on the [Planning Inspectorate website](#).
- A number of GATCOM members questioned the CEO about issues with taxis parking in residential roads around Gatwick, including on double yellow lines or in residents parking zones and across driveways. GAL is aware of the issues and works in partnership with a local stakeholder group that has recently put-up signage in some areas to deter such parking. GAL will continue to work with the local stakeholder group, including the local authorities and the taxi companies. GAL also confirmed that there is a dedicated taxi waiting area with facilities at the airport so there is no need to park in surrounding roads. It was also noted that if the DCO for the Northern Runway was successful the proposed new S106 agreement includes funding for off-airport parking controls which includes enforcement against unauthorised car parking.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE GATWICK REGION

Richard Lennard, Economic Partnership Manager, GAL and Emma Colyer, Trade & Tourism Business Development Manager, GAL, provided a presentation that detailed how London Gatwick actively promotes the economic benefits of the Gatwick region to generate foreign investment and expansion of existing businesses and drive up the value of the visitor economy.

The presentation contained a [Gateway Gatwick tourism video](#) created with local tourism authorities: Visit Brighton, Visit Surrey, Experience Sussex and Invest West Kent to show the diversity of tourist attractions, landscapes, cultures and venue options whilst using Gatwick as the Gateway to this region.

In addition, it was mentioned that London Gatwick generated £4.1 billion for the regional economy and supported over 56,570 jobs. This is evidenced in a recently published report [Local economic impact of London Gatwick 2023](#). This [short animation](#),

included in the presentation to GATCOM, presents the airport's economic impact by area.

MEMBER'S QUESTIONS

One question was received in advance of the meeting from Alan Jones. The full question and answer from London Gatwick can be found [here](#)

AIRSPACE UPDATE

Noise Management Board Update

The Noise Management Board (NMB) is currently in a transitional period. The first of the pre-agreed 'touchpoint' meetings was held on 13 March where the NMB third term proposal was shared and discussed with second term members. A follow-up meeting was held on 17 April at which second term members shared feedback on the third term proposals. The next touchpoint meeting is scheduled for 12 June. GAL confirmed that feedback is still being received and will contribute towards the final proposals.

NMB Workplan updates are still being produced to ensure that progress of the ongoing NMB projects (i.e., the proposed new Departure Noise Limits scheme, the Reduced Night Noise trial, the Low Noise Arrival Metric) are captured and published.

Airspace Modernisation

GAL are now in Stage 3 of the airspace change process. However, the DfT and the CAA are exploring a different way of taking the programme forward, replacing multiple sponsors responsible for their own airspace projects with a single organisation known as a Single Design Entity (SDE) drawing all individual projects together into a single programme. A ministerial decision on the SDE concept is expected to be taken by the end of May. Following this a full public consultation on the SDE is anticipated to start in June or July.

Airspace Modernisation - London Airspace South

London Gatwick, jointly with NATS and the Airspace Change Organising Group (ACOG), had put forward a proposal for initial deployment of the FASI route structures to the south of the airport, called London Airspace South.

ACOG conducted a public engagement exercise between 12 February - 24 March on the UK Airspace Change Masterplan, including this deployment. Ahead of that GAL held stakeholder engagement sessions on 24 and 30 January. The results the ACOG engagement are expected in the next few months.

This split deployment process will be explained in a future iteration of the UK Airspace Change Masterplan, a draft of which is currently scheduled to be published in the summer. Subject to availability of CAA resource, the Stage 3 Gateway and public consultation is planned for Q1 2025.

Noise Action Plan

Referring back to the recommendation from the Steering Group about the Noise Action Plan (NAP) not having been formally signed off by the Secretary of State, the DfT did state that London Gatwick could consider publishing the plan with a caveat that it is yet to be formally approved. GAL would consider this.

DfT NIGHT FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS CONSULTATION

The DfT provided a [presentation](#) explaining the detail of the consultation.

GATCOM noted the presentation, the secretariat's report and draft consultation response.

Members questions were mainly around dispensations, and some felt that stricter guidance could be introduced to limit the approval of dispensations. It was therefore agreed to include an additional comment similar to the alternative wording for point 8 that GACC had suggested.

GATCOM Airline representatives stated that they could not support point 7 of the response that stated quota rollover from one season to another should not be permitted. It was agreed that point would remain, but it would be added that Airlines did not support this view.

GATCOM agreed that the draft response be amended as above and that it be circulated to all members before being approved by the Chair and submitted to the DfT by 22 May 2024.

The final response can be found [here](#).

REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUP & OTHER MEETINGS

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 took 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:

- 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.
- NaTMAG continue to be concerned about poor CDO performance of a number of airlines. GAL are aware of this and are working closely with those airlines.
- NaTMAG were pleased to note the reducing in 'slow to vacate' in the go around data they receive. This is a positive effect of the new Rapid Exit Taxiway.

Passenger Advisory Group (PAG) – Chair's Report

PAG continue to work closely with GAL on the Departure Lounge expansion and refurbishment plans.

GATCOM noted 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 Tuesday 16 July 2024 at 2.00pm virtually via MS Teams.
- The next meeting of the GATCOM Steering Group will take place on Monday 24 June 2024 at 10.00am
- The next meeting of PAG will take place on Thursday 13 June 2024 at 1.30pm

Monique Smart
Secretariat