

GATCOM 16 JULY 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/>

MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS

Vice Chairman

Helyn Clack of Surrey County Council was reappointed as Vice Chairman of GATCOM for a further year.

Membership Updates

The following new members were welcomed to GATCOM:

Cllr Nicholas White – Tandridge District Council

Cllr Christopher Phillips – Mid Sussex District Council

Cllr Margaret Cooksey – Mole Valley District Council

The following new substitute members were welcomed to GATCOM:

Cllr Ian Gibson – Mid Sussex District Council

Cllr Jo Farrah-Astrop – Mole Valley District Council

Following the decision by Which, the consumer association, to withdraw their membership of all ACCs from September 2024, the Chairman thanked Chris Larkman for his commitment and contributions to GATCOM over the many years he had been a member.

Appointments to Sub-Groups

GATCOM agreed the appointments to the GATCOM Steering Group and the Passenger Advisory Group as detailed in section 3 the [report](#).

It was also agreed that Cllr Bob Bowdler from East Sussex County Council be appointed to the vacancy on NaTMAG.

GATCOM STEERING GROUP – CHAIR'S REPORT

GATCOM agreed the following recommendation from the Steering Group:

- 1) Noted the [Annual Air Quality Monitoring Report 2023](#)
- 2) Noted the [GATCOM Work Programme](#)

PASSENGER ADVISORY GROUP (PAG) – CHAIR'S REPORT

The PAG Chair echoed the GATCOM Chairs thanks to Chris Larkman for his service to PAG over the years.

The PAG Chair also reported that PAG had met the new Gatwick Airport COO, Mark Johnston, and they looked forward to building good relations with him.

The new seating project was concluding and PAG felt this had made a positive impact to the look and feel of the airport. Other projects the PAG team continue to be

involved in include the Next Generation Security, the refurbishment of the South Terminal, car parks and the expansion plans for both terminals.

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.
- If GATCOM members or the public, see or experience poor standards to report this at the airport or via the Airport Community App (for those who have been granted access to this) to allow rapid rectification.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

- GATCOM welcomed London Gatwick's new Director of Communications and External Affairs, Sam Fulton. Sam joined London Gatwick's executive team in June and will focus on the airport's strategic communications, community outreach and external affairs as well as airspace.
- Belén Llamas had also recently joined London Gatwick as General Counsel and Company Secretary.
- This summer passengers will have the choice of 223 destinations from 56 airlines at London Gatwick with 14 new services launching ahead of the UK school summer holidays. The long-haul routes now serve 57 destinations with a variety of Chinese routes having been added.
- The first half of the year has seen all Core Service Standards targets being met.
- Stewart confirmed that NATS, who operate the London Gatwick air traffic control tower, have successfully increased the number of air traffic controllers over recent months. NATS have given assurance that there will be the required resources to deliver this year's busy summer schedules for airlines and passengers. It was acknowledged that a recent short notice sickness had resulted in a small period of disruption, but NATS are confident in their people and systems and have improved staffing capacity and resilience and have more controllers this summer than last. GAL continue to meet with NATS on a biweekly basis.
- The possibility of industrial action by ICTS and Wilson James has been postponed while they are balloted on a new pay offer that have been recommended for approval. There are still a number of other pay agreements to be concluded across the airport services.
- GAL continue their investment programme with the completion of the North Terminal departure lounge refurbishment, new seating across both terminals and the construction of a new multi-story car park adjacent to the North Terminal that is nearing completion and will be available for passenger use in the autumn. The Next Generation Security project will pause over the busy summer period.

- The Northern Runway Project continues to progress through the Examination stage. A number of Public Hearings have been held and a final round will take place at the end of July. The Examination will close on 27 August. The Development Consent Order then moves into the 'determination' period, where the Inspectors have 3 months to prepare their report and submit this to the Secretary of State for Transport, who then has up to 3 months to review and make a decision.
- In respect of sustainability the airport has retained its Airport Carbon Accreditation level 4+ for the second year.
- The Department for Transport has announced details of the UK SAF (sustainable aviation fuels) mandate which will come into force from 1 January 2025 and requires that 10% of total jet fuel supplied in the UK must be SAF by 2030. Stewart confirmed that Gatwick is developing a programme to accelerate the take-up of SAF and engaging with airlines.
- Regarding the threats from protest groups, who have in recent months targeted other UK airports, GAL works with the relevant agencies to share intelligence and sends reminders to ensure that all GAL staff remain vigilant across the campus.
- A number of community events have taken place including Run Gatwick, a 10K event in partnership with Gatwick Airport which takes place along the perimeter road of the airport. Stewart also thanked the GATCOM members who had personally supported the sponsored bike ride by GAL employees from Gatwick to Paris that raised over £37,000 for the airport charities.

S106 ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

Tim Norwood, Chief Planning Officer, GAL, updated GATCOM on the Annual S106 Monitoring Report. The S106 Legal Agreement includes an Obligation for the Airport and the two lead Local Authorities, West Sussex County Council and Crawley Borough Council, to report on their respective progress in meeting the Obligations in the Agreement in an Annual Monitoring Report.

The report is now available on the Gatwick Airport website and can be found [here](#).

GAL reported that all 22 obligations are progressing well and are on track. In addition, Tim explained that a sample of 10 obligations are selected for independent verification and also confirmed as 'on track'. More detail on those is included in the report.

GATCOM welcomed the report. It was noted that other Local Authorities are kept up to date on the S106 agreement by the lead authorities and have regular meetings at which this is reviewed.

DECADE OF CHANGE PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Mark Edwards, Head of Sustainability, GAL, gave a [presentation](#) that provided an overview of GALs sustainability activity and performance linked to the annual Decade of Change Performance Summary for 2023.

The summary report can be found [here](#)

MEMBER'S QUESTIONS

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

AIRSPACE UPDATE

Noise Management Board (NMB) Update

Andy Sinclair, Head of Noise and Airspace Strategy, GAL, provided an update on the NMB. [PowerPoint slides](#) show the review project timeline and proposed structure of the revised NMB.

A number of 'touchpoint' meetings have been held with second term NMB members where the NMB third term proposals were shared and discussed. The next steps include a Community Concerns workshop on 14 August, that will help to shape the start of the new NMB Work Programme. An NMB 3rd term launch event will take place on 12 September.

It was confirmed that Jonathan Drew had been appointed as Chair of the Oversight Board. A process to appoint an independent Chair of the Community Assembly and an independent Secretariat was underway.

Some GATCOM members raised concerns about Community and Environment representatives not being directly appointed to the Oversight Board. GAL confirmed that the independent Chair of the Community Assembly would be on the Oversight Board and the new role had been explicitly recast to act as a community champion. The Oversight Board would include elected representatives from local councils and meetings would be open to the public (including all community representatives) who would be able to pose questions during meetings.

Jonathan Drew introduced the NMB Workplan Implementation Report that includes updates on progress of the ongoing NMB projects. Jonathan provided a specific update on the Fair and Equitable Distribution (FED) report stating that the CAA have reviewed the final draft, and a CAA meeting was taking place on 12 August when it was hoped the report could be finalised. It was agreed that if the FED report was not published shortly after 12 August the NMB and GATCOM Chairs would jointly write to the CAA.

Route 4 Airspace Change

This Route 4 airspace change is now anticipated to reach the Stage 3 Gateway in early 2025 and a public consultation to follow in Quarter 1 2025, a similar timeline as London Airspace South (LAS). Given the external factors that may influence the timing of the LAS airspace change, GAL will consider the potential for overlap of the 2 airspace change schedules and aim to deconflict the 2 consultations (Route 4 and LAS) as more becomes known about the timelines for both.

Airspace Modernisation - London Gatwick FASI-South

Stage 3 of the airspace change process for all FASI airspace change is paused pending the outcome of the CAA-led, DfT commissioned, review on the concept of a single design entity (SDE) for airspace change.

A consultation on the SDE is now anticipated to commence in the autumn 2024.

Airspace Modernisation - London Airspace South (LAS)

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

Although Iteration 3 of the UK Airspace Change Masterplan was delayed due to the general election, the CAA have issued a 'minded to' position to enable work to continue on the project.

Assuming the CAA is able to assess the submission according to the agreed timeline, the Stage 3 Gateway decision can be expected early Quarter 1 2025. Subject to a decision to proceed, the public consultation would commence later that Quarter.

Reduced Night Noise (RNN) Trial

The aim of the trial was to establish whether modern aircraft navigation procedures can be used to reduce noise by both keeping aircraft higher for longer and by reducing engine thrust. A six-month RNN trial started in January 2024 during which over 400 flights took part. Data from the reports published each month during the period is showing that the trial completely eliminated low attitude outliers, however, the correlated noise monitor data is still to be fully assessed. A full report is expected soon.

REPORTS FROM OTHER MEETINGS

Noise And Track Monitoring Advisory Group (NaTMAG)

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

- Odour reporting is now under the remit of the GAL Sustainability Team.
- ANNE (Aviation Night Noise Effects Study) reporting will be provided in 2025.

Mike George, GATCOMs lead member for Noise also added that NaTMAG were expecting to finalise their monitoring of the NAP Round 3 at their next meeting and will move on to the new NAP Round 4 in the coming months. It was noted that the NAP Round 4 had still not been formally adopted by the Defra but it was agreed that airports could publish draft plans.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meetings of GATCOM and its sub-groups as follows:

GATCOM Steering Group - Thursday 10 October 2024

Passenger Advisory Group - Thursday 19 September 2024

GATCOM - Thursday 21 November 2024 at 2.00pm.

Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group (NaTMAG) - Thursday 8 August at 10.00am.

Monique Smart
Secretariat