

**Minutes of the meeting of the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee (GATCOM) held on 16 July 2024.**

<b>Present:</b>	
Tom Crowley	Chairman
Cllr Alan Jones	Burstow Parish Council
Cllr Philip Lunn	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Helyn Clack	Surrey County Council
Cllr Malcolm Fillmore	Rusper Parish Council
Cllr Margot McArthur	Kent County Council
Cllr Mike George	Horley Town Council
Cllr Richard Biggs	Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Cllr Nicholas White	Tandridge District Council
Cllr Margaret Cooksey	Mole Valley District Council
Ed Winter	Environmental and Amenity Groups
Colin Stewart	BAR UK
Hugh McConnellogue	Gatwick Airline Operators Committee
Fran Downton	Tourism South East
Chris Larkman	Which?
Rory Lillington	Airlines UK
Jonathan Drew	Co-Chair, Noise Management Board
James Watkins	London Chamber
Samantha Williams	Passenger Advisory Group
Robin Clarke	NATS

<b>Also in attendance:</b>	
Stewart Wingate	Chief Executive Officer, GAL
Tim Norwood	Chief Planning Officer, GAL
Andy Sinclair	Head of Noise & Airspace Strategy, GAL
Sam Fulton	Director of Communications and External Affairs, GAL
Alison Addy	Head of External Engagement & Policy, GAL
Monique Smart	GATCOM Secretariat
Graham Lake	GATCOM Technical Advisor

**1. Apologies for absence were received from:**

Stephen Jones (London Chamber of Commerce and Industry), Angie Hills (ABTA), Cllr Steve Waight (West Sussex County Council), Cllr Bob Bowdler (East Sussex County Council), Brett North (Gatwick Diamond), Ana Christie (Sussex Chamber of Commerce).

**2. Membership and Appointments**

2.1 The Chairman welcomed new members and substitutes to the committee, including Cllr Nicholas White (Tandridge District Council), Cllr Christopher Phillips (Mid Sussex District Council) and Cllr Margaret Cooksey (Mole Valley District Council). New substitute members were also noted as Cllr Ian Gibson (Mid Sussex District Council) and Cllr Jo Farrah-Astrop (Mole Valley District Council)

2.2 The Secretariat introduced the previously circulated report updating on membership and setting out for approval the appointments to be made to GATCOM's sub-groups and Vice Chair.

2.3 In respect of membership it was noted that following a decision by Which, the consumer association, to withdraw their membership of all ACCs, that this seat would become vacant in September 2024. The Chairman thanked Chris Larkman for his commitment and contributions to GATCOM over the many years he had been a member.

2.4 The Secretariat confirmed that one nomination was received for the Vice Chair role in respect of Helyn Clack, Surrey County Council.

2.5 Resolved – That GATCOM:

- 1) Appoint Helyn Clack as GATCOM Vice Chair for a further year.
- 2) Appoints members to the GATCOM Steering Group as set out in paragraphs 3.2 to 3.4 of the report including continuing with 3 Surrey District Council members and making the lead member for noise a permanent member of the Steering Group.
- 3) Appoints members to the Passenger Advisory Group as set out paragraph 3.5 of the report;

### **3. Minutes Of The Last Meeting**

3.1 Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of GATCOM held on 16 May 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **4. GATCOM Steering Group – Chairman’s Report**

4.1 The Chair of GATCOM introduced his report (copies attached to the signed minutes) of the last Steering Group Meeting that took place on 24 June 2024.

4.2 GATCOM agreed the following recommendation from the Steering Group:

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

### **5. Passenger Advisory Group**

5.1 The Chair of PAG introduced the report (copies attached to the signed minutes) of the last PAG meeting that took place on 13 June 2024 and activities during the last quarter.

5.2 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.

5.3 GATCOM noted:

- 1) the work of PAG and its engagement with GAL as the ‘critical friend’ and support its role as advocate on behalf of passengers.

- 2) 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.

## **6. Chief Executive Officer's Report**

6.1 GATCOM received a report from Stewart Wingate, Chief Executive Officer, GAL on activity at the airport over the past quarter (copy attached to the signed minutes). 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.

## **7. S106 Annual Monitoring report**

7.1 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.

7.2 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, linked above and available on the London Gatwick website.

7.3 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.

## **8. Decade of Change Performance Summary**

8.1 GATCOM welcomed Mark Edwards, Head of Sustainability, GAL, who 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](#).

## **9. Member's Questions**

6.1 One question was received in advance of the meeting from Cllr Malcolm Fillmore. The question was split into three with responses from GAL included below:

Q1) It is apparent from my monthly analyses of night arrivals that there is an increasing number of flights arriving between 0000 and 0400 (and significantly more than pre-pandemic). The majority are EasyJet and Tui.

A) GAL continues to work closely with our airlines - meeting on a weekly basis - to review night flight usage and is operating within the Department for Transport night flight restrictions cap. Full details of our night flight performance is reported through NaTMAG and can be found in the quarterly and annual Airspace Office Reports.

Q2) As a percentage, how many of these flights are actually scheduled to arrive during these hours?

A) So far in 2024 between 0000-0400(I), 80% of all of the arrival flights have been scheduled to do so. This is similar to 2019 (pre-pandemic) where 83% of all arrival flights operating in these hours were planned to do so.

Q3) Are any actions taking place to reduce the number of late arrivals?

A) We meet with our airlines on a weekly basis specifically to review night flight scheduling performance. Actions taken by airlines to resolve issues, or forecast issues, in night flight performance are normally through scheduling or by addressing the operational factors giving rise to the delays.

## **10. Noise Management Board (NMB) Update**

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

10.2 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 3<sup>rd</sup> term launch event will take place on 12 September.

10.3 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.

10.4 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.

10.5 Jonathan Drew introduced the NMB Workplan Implementation Report (copies attached to the signed minutes) that included 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.

## **11. Airspace Update**

11.1 Andy Sinclair, Head of Noise and Airspace Strategy provided a number of updates in relation to Airspace and Noise.

### **Route 4 Airspace Change**

11.2 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**

11.3 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.

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

### **Airspace Modernisation - London Airspace South (LAS)**

11.5 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).

11.6 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.

11.7 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.

11.8 A question was asked as to whether routes 8 and 9 are included in the LAS airspace change. Mr Sinclair confirmed that route 9 is not in the scope of LAS. Route 8 and the other southerly departure routes will be included, with any potential changes based on achieving the airspace modernisation vision of making flights quicker, quieter and cleaner.

### **Reduced Night Noise (RNN) Trial**

11.9 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.

## **12. Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group (NATMAG)**

12.1 Mike George, GATCOM's lead member for noise, introduced his report (copies attached to the signed minutes) that summarised the key messages and recommendations arising from recent NaTMAG meetings.

12.2 GATCOM noted the report and NATMAG's key messages.

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

12.3 Mr George 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.

## **13. Date of Next Meeting of GATCOM and its Sub-Groups**

13.1 GATCOM noted 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.

Chairman

The meeting concluded at 11.45am.