

# CEO REPORT FOR GATCOM

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January – March 2025

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Gatwick Airport Limited  
Stewart Wingate, CEO



LONDON GATWICK

POWERED BY VINCI AIRPORTS  Global Infrastructure Partners 

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# Airport & Operations

In March we published our annual results, reporting that we welcomed 43.2m passengers in 2024, met 99% of our service metrics and continued to invest in our business and developing our people. The successful year was driven by significant growth in the choice of airlines and destinations, with 57 airlines serving the airport - more than ever before. It was down to the hard work and commitment of all our teams that we have maintained safety and security metrics across the airport.

With our summer season having started on 30 March, it's important that we focus on doing what we do best, serving our passengers, with safety and security underpinning everything we do.

Our **Next Generation security project** is now complete, with the brand new, cutting-edge technology fully operational across our North and South terminals. Passengers travelling through London Gatwick no longer need to remove electrical items or place liquids in plastic bags, as part of a multi-million-pound project to transform our security screening process. The cutting-edge technology enhances the security accuracy for airport security staff with 3D technology. The installation of new computed tomography (CT) scanners simplify and streamline the security process while maintaining the highest safety standards. The new technology is not only more efficient but also more sustainable, by removing the need for plastic bags. More than 95% of passengers already pass through security at London Gatwick in under five minutes. This is a positive change, with the scanners allowing our passengers to travel through the airport with even more ease. At London Gatwick, we pride ourselves on providing a great passenger experience and as we head into a busy summer season, we look forward to continuing to deliver that service.

In February, Gatwick's Security team scored 99.67% in both phases of **the CAA's annual inspection**, which assesses operations through observations, questions and record checks. The security training team also maintained their "outstanding" audit score from the CAA, which evaluates the quality and compliance of our courses and trainers.

NATS, the UK's main ATC provider, has implemented an **advanced aircraft separation system at London Gatwick**, which reduces carbon emissions and supports on-time performance. Believed to be the world's "first" for a single-runway airport, the system utilises time-based intervals to separate incoming flights, rather than the conventional fixed distances. The shift to dynamic time-based spacing is designed to maintain consistent landing rates and optimise runway efficiency, particularly in strong winds. NATS has communicated that this advancement will bolster the resilience of Gatwick's operations, leading to fewer delays and shorter holding times for aircraft. The anticipated decrease in airline fuel consumption is expected to result in savings of between 11,000 and 19,000 tonnes of CO2 annually.

**In 2024 Gatwick welcomed 43.2m passengers, up 5.7% from 2023**

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# Investment & Growth

Our strong performance has enabled us to continue to improve the passenger experience, such as installing Next Generation security, refreshing the North Terminal and welcoming more than 20 new shops, bars and restaurants.



In March, work started on our **Pier 6 extension** with Mace confirmed for the £140m project. Located across the airfield, our piers are the long and narrow buildings connecting gate rooms and passengers to their flights. When complete in 2027, this extension will provide new capacity and enhance resilience, featuring eight new aircraft gates adjacent to the runway. This development will give seven and a half million passengers a year direct pier service to the stand. The new gates will also remove the need to coach over 500,000 passengers to remote stands, saving 12,000 bus journeys a year. The innovative revised design and construction will reduce the carbon footprint (embodied carbon) of the building. This has put the project on track to achieve BREEAM ratings of “Excellent” (Overall) and “Outstanding” (Energy and water). Through making design changes such as reducing the width of the building, moving to a hybrid steel and timber frame and designing efficient ventilation systems, the project should deliver around 52% savings in embodied carbon from the original design.

On 27 February the **Secretary of State for Transport (SoS)** announced that she is “minded to approve” our plans to bring the existing northern runway into routine use. The SoS has requested that GAL submits a response to proposed changes to the Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate by 24 April. GAL’s response will then be published on the Planning Inspectorate’s website and comments will be invited from Interested Parties on those matters only. A final decision is expected to be taken on or before 27 October 2025. We welcomed the positive way forward set out by the SoS and stand ready to deliver this investment in the future growth of London Gatwick, which has the potential to create 14,000 jobs and generate £1 billion a year in economic benefits. By increasing resilience and capacity, we can support the UK’s position as a leader in global connectivity and deliver substantial trade and economic growth in the South East and more broadly.

**Pier 6 extension project takes off with a £140m investment to enhance passenger experience**

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# Airlines and Routes

We are continuing to expand our **long-haul connectivity**, offering our passengers a range of fantastic destinations and excellent onward connections. These additions reflect a focus on developing new long-haul routes across the Middle East, Asia, and Africa, aiming to attract a broader range of passengers and support London Gatwick's vision of being the airport for everyone whatever their journey.



Already in 2025, several major new airlines have confirmed slots/services from the airport including IndiGo (from Summer 2025), Uganda Airlines, Gulf Air and Kenya Airways.

Gulf Air began its three times a week direct flight to Bahrain in March, using Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft. The Gulf Air service is the first to ever operate between London Gatwick and Bahrain and is the latest in a series of new routes connecting the airport with Asia and the Middle East, and onward connections to Australia.

Singapore Airlines increased its London Gatwick to Singapore service from five times weekly to daily in March. The early morning arrival in Singapore facilitates seamless connections to destinations across Southeast Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.

Wizz Air confirmed the **New Airbus A321XLR** for the UK's only direct route to Medina, Saudi Arabia. The A321XLR reduces fuel consumption by 30% and can fly for 11 hours (8,700km), both economical and carbon efficient.

Other new routes include:

- Cape Verde (Sal): EasyJet commenced its longest-ever route from England, offering three weekly flights to Sal
- Bangkok, Thailand: Norse Atlantic Airways a new direct route starts October 2025, with up to four weekly flights
- Rimini, Italy: EasyJet launched twice-weekly flights in April 2025 to this Adriatic coastal city
- Norwegian Airways service to Billund Denmark (June)
- Uganda Airlines service to Entebbe (May)
- Kenyan Airlines service to Nairobi (July)
- Wizz Air service to Wroclaw Poland (June)

British Airways is to acquire the Boeing hangar facility and MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) business at London Gatwick. This transaction sees the airline create a new wholly owned engineering subsidiary called British Airways Engineering Gatwick (BAEG). The move brings benefits to London Gatwick including enhanced operational efficiency by enabling on-site aircraft maintenance, which reduces downtime and emissions and signals long-term investment confidence. Supporting job continuity for existing staff, with plans for further recruitment, boosting the local economy. Overall, the deal improves infrastructure, sustainability, and the airport's appeal as a key aviation hub.

**220 destinations, with 57 airlines serving 172 short-haul routes and 53 long-haul routes**

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# Sustainability

In January over 600 colleagues attended the second **annual Sustainability Roadshow**, which was hosted across a week and featured two conferences, eleven guest speakers, and numerous events. During roadshow week, we also celebrated our inaugural Sustainability Awards which saw over 50 nominations across five categories. The ceremony, hosted by Development Director Bronwen Jones, was an opportunity to celebrate sustainability successes and achievements from across the business during 2024. Winners were presented with trophies made from recycled security trays from our own operation.

On 20 March, we published London Gatwick's **Decade of Change Performance Summary 2024** alongside the annual report, covering our sustainability activity and performance over the year and our progress towards our Decade of Change 2030 goals. We have also published a two-page **DoC Highlights** document.



The year ahead includes a decision on our **decarbonisation of heat pathway**: replacing our 100+ gas boilers, delivery of the first wave of EV vehicles to the airfield to replace our current fleet, and the roll out of Disability Equality and Awareness training across the campus.

## Airspace & Noise

Although the outcome of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) led, Department for Transport commissioned, review on the concept of a UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS) has yet to be published (expected over the summer), the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, confirmed in a statement on 17 March that the UKADS would be established in the coming months. Once established, the UKADS will initially take responsibility for the airspace change projects that form the part of the Government and the CAA co-sponsored national programme to modernise the airspace in the southeast of the UK. It is expected this will exclude the London Airspace South (LAS) project that focuses on the portion of airspace directly south of the airport.

The airport continues to work with NATS and the Airspace Change Organising Group (ACOG) on the **London Airspace South (LAS) project** that includes some departure routes and all arrival procedures to the south of London Gatwick. The assessment of the remaining best performing options – known as the Full Options Appraisal – continues, including using metrics taken from the Fair and Equitable Distribution of air traffic study. The complexity of the appraisal process means there is a risk to the airspace change process timeline, including the public consultation that is not due to take place until next year.

The document set for the **Standard Instrument Departure Route 4 Airspace Change Proposal (ACP-2018-86)** public consultation was submitted to the CAA for review ahead of the Stage 3 Gateway decision - progress through which is necessary ahead of any public consultation. Following review, the CAA has requested a number of amendments to the

consultation documentation which will require further review and ‘approval’ by the regulator. As a result, the public consultation, planned to start in Q2, is expected to be delayed.

The first **Noise Management Board (NMB)** quarterly meeting cycle of 2025 was held in March; the Community Assembly on 12 March, and Oversight Board on 26 March. Feedback from members on the new NMB governance and structure has been positive, and community membership continues to increase. A Community Assembly Briefing session, which is a new additional feature, was held on 11 February. The briefing session was hosted by the Independent Community Representative and presented by the Expert Advisory Group, covering the topic of *Understanding Factors Affecting Aircraft Noise Impact on the Ground*. Members have welcomed this new resource. The next quarterly meeting cycle will be held in June, with the second briefing session taking place on 14 May.

The **Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group (NaTMAG)** meeting was held on 13 February. Key topics included a review of the Noise Action Plan Annual Progress Report for 2024, an update on the Noise Action Plan (NAP) 2024-28, the Airline Noise Performance Table comparison review and Route 4 dashboard, an update on the new structure of the NMB following commencement of its third term and an airspace update on FASI-S and Route 4 ACP progress.

## Noise Quarterly Performance Data

Parameter	Quarterly Performance	
	Q1 2025	Q4 2024
Track keeping conformance (% on track)	94.51%	92.76%
Core Night CDO (% achievement)	87.32%	90.41%
Day/Shoulder CDO (% achievement)	91.50%	90.36%
24 Hour CDO (% achievement)	91.31%	90.37%
1000ft Infringements (No.)	0	1
1000ft Infringements (No. below 900ft)	0	1
Departure Noise Infringements (Day)	0	0
Departure Noise Infringements (Night/Shoulder)	0	0
West/East Runway Split (%)	48/52	63/37

Of note is the West/East runway split which for this quarter favoured easterlies, the 20-year average being 75/25. This increased easterly operation was also the underlying reason for the encouraging improvement in both track keeping and Continuous Descent Operations (CDO) performance in Q1 compared to Q4 last year.

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# Community

In January applications for the **VINCI UK Foundation Fund** opened, giving all VINCI colleagues the chance to support a local charity with funding to work alongside a charity to deliver projects that support social cohesion and fight isolation. Applications closed at the end of March with several local charities and their London Gatwick sponsors making applications, funding outcomes will be announced later in the year. In 2024 two charities received a £5,000 grant from the fund; Employment and Skills Lead Barry Cullen helped local charity FreeShop Crawley provide materials for arts & crafts sessions for children and equipment for their community cafe. External Security Officer Scott Houghton also secured the maximum grant of £5,000 for Sussex and Surrey Healthcare Trust (SASH) Charity. This went towards building a new summerhouse providing cancer patients with a sanctuary for quiet time in the garden.

So far in 2025, we've engaged with over **49,000 students** through **77 educational events**, extending Gatwick's educational outreach further than ever before. These events are key to raising awareness of careers at the airport, showcasing our commitment to inclusion, and equipping young people with the knowledge and inspiration they need to take their next steps.

Our **Careers Live** broadcasts continue to attract record numbers of viewers from schools across the region The **International Women's Day** edition in March saw **18,000 live student views**—our highest ever for a live broadcast—featuring a panel of diverse female colleagues sharing their career journeys and advice. In February, our *National Apprenticeship Week* broadcast attracted **16,000 live views**, with an additional **9,000 on-demand views** and counting.

During **National Apprenticeship week** (10–16 February) London Gatwick welcomed hundreds of young people and jobseekers to explore exciting career pathways, meet industry experts, and get hands-on with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and apprenticeship opportunities.

Our recent **Apprenticeships Fair** was a resounding success, attracting over 250 students and jobseekers from across the region. The event showcased live and upcoming roles from 14 airport partners, including DHL, Border Force, Sussex Police, Metrobus, and World Duty Free. Attendees had the opportunity to speak directly with employers, explore a wide range of career paths, and gain valuable insights into the varied apprenticeship opportunities available across the airport campus. A highlight of the day was the participation of Gatwick's own apprentices. They shared personal stories, practical advice, and insights into their day-to-day work, helping to demystify apprenticeships and inspire confidence among attendees.

**Crawley MP Peter Lamb**, who attended the fair, praised the initiative, saying: *"I want to see local kids from Crawley having the best shot at life, and this is one way of doing that."* His words underlined the event's contribution to social mobility and skills development in the local area.



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To mark the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science**, we hosted 80 local female students at the airport for an action-packed STEM discovery day. The event was designed to break down stereotypes and spark excitement about science, technology, engineering, and maths. The students participated in hands-on challenges, including designing and racing solar-powered vehicles, and programming LEGO SPIKE robots. The day also featured an inspiring keynote from **Alia Ardron**, Launch Engineer at **SpaceX**, who shared her personal journey into aerospace engineering.

**49, 000 students engaged through 77 educational events in 2025 to date**

## Local Economy

Economic engagement continued with local, regional and national stakeholders. Partnership working with local authorities continued with Horsham District Council speaking at the GAL Sustainability Roadshows in January, and GAL colleagues participating in the first in-person **Invest Crawley Conference** in March, and the naming ceremony of the new Crawley Innovation Centre following our input as Project Board member. Our Economic Partnerships team also presented an overview of our work to support local producers at a Sussex Six workshop.



The **Gatwick Region Airport Economic Zone (AEZ)** taskforce met at London Gatwick in January and March to progress the collaborative initiative announced at the 2024 London Gatwick Economic Summit. Key areas of discussion for the taskforce included geography and devolution. We hosted three Gatwick Region AEZ stakeholder engagement roundtables in February and March with education providers, local authority districts and boroughs, and business membership organisations and local businesses, to provide an overview of the AEZ and to seek feedback and foster collaboration. Further information about the AEZ can be found at [www.gatwickairport.com/aez](http://www.gatwickairport.com/aez).

Other engagement included our headline sponsorship of the **Gatwick Diamond Business Awards 2025**; hosting a Sussex Chamber of Commerce roundtable with premier members; delivery of a Trading In Singapore webinar in collaboration with regional Chambers of Commerce; and a presentation to economics students at East Sussex College.



The first **London Gatwick Jobs Fair** held at Crawley County Mall in March was a huge success, drawing in a diverse crowd of job seekers, students, and members of the public. The event brought together 24 campus-based employers who were able to showcase a wide range of career opportunities across aviation, hospitality, retail, engineering, and customer service. Attendees had the chance to engage in meaningful conversations, learn about different roles. Applications for roles were submitted during and after the event and to date 17 job offers have been made. The event not only helped connect people with immediate employment opportunities but also raised awareness of the wide variety of careers available at the airport, reinforcing Gatwick's role as a key regional employer.

In addition to the jobs fair, London Gatwick also took part in the **Maidstone Apprenticeship Fair**, joining forces with five West Kent MPs to promote apprenticeships and inspire the next generation of talent.

**County Mall Job Fair in Crawley has already resulted in 17 job offers at the airport**