

**Minutes of the meeting of the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee (GATCOM) held on 24 April 2025**

<b>Present:</b>	
Tom Crowley	Chairman
Ana Christie	Sussex Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Eddie Lord	Burstow Parish 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
Ed Winter	Environmental and Amenity Groups
Igor Bartkiv	London Chamber
Samantha Williams	Passenger Advisory Group
Cllr Steve Waight	West Sussex County Council
Cllr Bob Bowdler	East Sussex County Council
Hugh McConnellogue	Airline Operators Committee
Cllr Margaret Cooksey	Mole Valley District Council
Cllr Lisa Scott	Charlwood Parish Council
Samantha Williams	PAG Chair
Cllr Nigel Emery	Horsham District Council
Cara Mulholland	Independent Community Representative (NMB)
Rory Lillington	Airlines UK
Fran Downton	Tourism South East

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

**1. Apologies and Welcomes**

1.1 Apologies were received from: Jonathan Drew (Chair NMOB), Angie Hills (ABTA) and Alan Jones (Burstow Parish Council).

1.2 The Chair paid tribute to Liz Kitchen, former member of GATCOM, who passed away in on 10 February 2025. The Committee held a minute's silence in her memory.

1.3 GATCOM welcomed Cllr Nigel Emery as the new representative from Horsham District Council.

## **2. Minutes of The Last Meeting**

2.1 Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of GATCOM held on 30 January 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

3.1 The Chair of GATCOM introduced his report (copies attached to the signed minutes) of the last Steering Group Meeting that took place on 3 April 2025.

3.2 GATCOM noted the Steering Group report and agreed the attached GATCOM Work Programme.

## **4. Passenger Advisory Group**

4.1 The Chair of PAG, Samantha Williams, introduced the report (copies attached to the signed minutes) of the last PAG meeting that took place in March 2025 and activities during the last quarter. Samantha highlighted the updated Working Group chart that showed the variety of work undertaken by PAG with GAL.

4.2 Mike George asked if PAG get involved in issues that affect and concern local residents such as parking in the residential areas surrounding Gatwick and local bus services or cycle routes. Sam responded that PAGs focus is always on the passenger, but this can have links as local residents do use the airport. It was agreed that Mike and Sam would discuss this outside of the meeting and decide if any further links need to be made.

4.3 GATCOM noted the work of PAG and its engagement with GAL as the ‘critical friend’ and supports its role as advocate on behalf of passengers.

## **5. Chief Executive Officer’s Report**

5.1 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:

- GAL’s annual results for 2024 were published in March. They showed that the airport welcomed 43.2 million passengers, which was just under 6% increase on the previous year and met 99% of the agreed service standards.
- Also published with the annual results was the Decade of Change Performance Summary for 2024 that covered the airports sustainability activity and performance.
- The Next Generation Security project to upgrade all security scanners across the airport is now complete. Passengers can now leave liquids and electrical items in their bags as they pass through security.
- GAL continue to work closely with NATS. Going into the summer season there are more ATC staff than in previous years and NATS have also recently implemented an advanced mixed mode system at London Gatwick which aims to reduce carbon emissions and supports on-time performance.

- The Pier 6 extension project continues. When completed, in 2027, this will provide new capacity with eight new aircraft gates.
- A number of new airlines have joined Gatwick including IndiGo, Uganda Airlines, Gulf Air and Kenya Airways. As of March, Singapore Airlines will offer daily services and Wizz Air are due to introduce the new Airbus A321XLR.
- GAL continue their work with local students and schools. So far in 2025 they have engaged with over 49,000 students through 77 educational events.
- Additionally, the first London Gatwick Jobs Fair took place in Crawley which was very successful.

5.2 Questions from members as a result of the CEO report, and the responses given, included the following:

- A Gatwick Diamond representative asked how smaller local contractors, and business can engage and get involved with projects at the Airport. Stewart responded stating his team would be happy to meet with local businesses to discuss opportunities.
- The Environment representative welcomed the NATS initiatives and asked if the improved resilience would reduce emissions or would extra capacity be used to increase hourly capacity. Stewart responded stating there are a number of initiatives that GAL are working on with NATS now and in the coming years.
- A Tourism representative raised concern that the visitor economy is not included in the Governments strategy for growth. Gatwick confirmed that they would work with Tourism South East to improve and promote the visitor economy and that the Northern Runway proposals were key to doing that in a sustainable way.
- One Local Authority representative praised the STEM team who had recently visited his local primary school.
- Stewart confirmed that following the recent power outages at Heathrow Airport, Gatwick have been in dialogue with the Power Networks and looked at what would happen at Gatwick if a similar outage were to occur. From the national grid there are two local substations that feed into the primary network at Gatwick Airport. In addition, Gatwick has a well serviced arrangement of back-up generators on critical systems and processes in place. The Airport is also in dialogue with UK Power Network to see what can be done at the power stations to avoid such incidents happening.

5.3 In addition Tom Norwood, Chief Planning Officer, GAL, provided the following brief update on the Northern Runway Project:

- On 27 February the Secretary of State (SoS) announced she was 'minded to approve' the plan to bring the northern runway into routine use. In that response more information was requested about a number of proposed requirements put forward by the Planning Inspectorate. The principal issues were around air noise limits, noise mitigation scheme and public transport mode share. There were also a number of other issues such as possible additional consultation under EU 598 regulation and around National Landscapes.
- Later today the response from GAL to the SoS will be finalised and submitted.

- It is expected that it will be published on the Planning Inspectorates website and an opportunity will be given for interested parties to comment. [Post Meeting Note – The additional information submitted by GAL has now been published and Interested Parties have until 9 June to respond on the via [the Planning Inspectorates website](#)]
- A final decision is expected from the SoS by 27 October 2025.

## **6. Member's Questions**

6.1 No written members questions were received.

## **7. Airspace Update**

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

7.2 Route 4 Airspace Change consultation material was submitted by GAL to the CAA in February ahead of a Stage 3 Gateway decision prior to public consultation. The CAA have requested some changes to the consultation material so the regulatory review and a public consultation will be deferred. No date has been set for regulatory review, but the public consultation will now not likely take place before the summer, GAL will keep GATCOM updated as this progresses.

7.3 Following the Government consultation on the UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS), it was announced, on 17th March, that this organisation would be established and used to centralise all UK airspace modernisation change projects. Changes to legislation to confirm this are expected in the summer. A consultation response document setting out next steps is expected in the next few months. The Future Airspace Strategy Implementation - South (FASI - South) programme is effectively on hold pending the establishment of the UKADS. The detail about when or how GAL will hand over its airspace change projects are still unknown.

7.4 London Airspace South (LAS) element of FASI-S, which focuses on arrival routes and some departure routes to the South of the airport, continues. Options have been narrowed down and additional assessment measures including Fair and Equitable Distribution (FED), and the World Health Organisation metrics are being included. This work is taking longer than expected and public consultation is not expected to be until later into 2026.

7.5 A question from members asked whether local planning authorities will be kept informed of progress to ensure that any new or changes to flightpaths can be considered for planning applications and in Local Plans. GAL confirmed that Local Authorities have been included in stages 1 and 2 as part of the stakeholder engagement and they will continue to be involved and informed as part of the process.

7.6 GATCOM then welcomed Kimberley O'Neill, Noise Compliance & Performance Programme Manager, GAL, who provided an overview of the Airspace Office Annual Report for 2024. The report is due to be published in the next few weeks and Kimberley gave GATCOM a brief overview of what would be included and encouraged all members to view it in detail once published. [Post Meeting Note – [The Airspace Office Annual Report](#) has now been published]

7.7 The report includes Key Performance Indicators in relation to noise and shows progress quarter by quarter. The report also includes details on any noise infringement, of which there were none in 2024, noise complaints across the year, nighttime operations and dispensations.

7.8 Another area in the report is the Airline Noise Performance Table which shows individual airlines performance and how they comply with track keeping and continuous decent targets that encourage the most noise efficient operation of the aircraft. An interactive version of this table is available on the Gatwick Airport website [here](#). The Airspace Office regularly meet with airlines to improve performance, and this has proved successful over time.

7.9 It was also highlighted that [WebTrak](#) is a dedicated online flight tracker which allows you to track aircraft operating to and from Gatwick, as well as aircraft from other airports.

7.10 Noise Monitoring is also covered in the report and shows where in the local area the 22 noise monitors are placed and how the data is reviewed. A local authority member requested that a monitor be considered for Hookwood. It was suggested this request be emailed to Kimberley for formal consideration through the Gatwick Noise Monitoring Group.

7.11 The Environmental representative raised the issue that last summer there were 1064 dispensation that equates to an average of 5 flight every night. In the last Night Flight consultation by the DfT they suggested they would have more oversight of dispensations and requested that Airports submit a report each season. It was suggested that GATCOM or NaTMAG should have a greater role in this process. Mike George, GATCOM lead member for noise, confirmed this was, and would continue to be discussed and challenged at NaTMAG. GAL confirmed that a letter to the SoS is now submitted at the end of each season with reasons for dispensations and this is published on the Gatwick website. Also GAL continue to provide weekly reporting to the DfT on the number of night movements, including dispensations.

## **8. Noise Management Board**

8.1 The Chair referred members to the NMB update report and work programme (copies attached to the signed minutes). Cara Mulholland, Independent Community representative, introduced the report highlighting that the second round of meetings had recently taken place. The main areas of discussion had been on process around the short-listed projects. One comment from members was that they would like more detail on how the projects were shortlisted. It was also requested that detail about the projects to be discussed at the Oversight Board should be circulated in advance to allow members time to review.

8.2 Regarding the Community Assembly it was confirmed that around 14 individuals had joined, and that membership is always open should anyone wish to join. Details of how to join are included on the NMB website. The GATCOM Vice Chair stated she hoped GATCOM members could help with spreading the word about the NMB and encouraging interested individuals to sign up and if the NMB have any communication

that could be sent to members for circulation in local newsletters or websites would be appreciated.

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

9.1 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.

9.2 The GATCOM Vice Chair asked if information was available online regarding go arounds. Mike confirmed that the number and reasons for these are included in the quarterly Airspace Office reports and these are available on the [GATCOM website](#).

9.3 GATCOM noted the report and key messages and agreed that Cllr Nigel Emery be appointed to NaTMAG until 31 July 2025.

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

10.1 GATCOM noted the next meetings of GATCOM, and its sub-groups and associated meetings are as follows:

- GATCOM - Thursday 31 July 2025 at 2.00pm, in person at Gatwick Airport.

Members were also reminded that a new member induction session is planned for 11am on 31 July, prior to GATCOM. This is open to all members and support officers who have not previously attended an induction. Confirmation and further information on this will be sent out shortly.

- GATCOM Steering Group - Thursday 10 July 2025
- Passenger Advisory Group - Thursday 12 June 2025
- NaTMAG Thursday 8 May 2025

10.2 Members were also asked to note the dates for the next round of NMB meetings and encourage any members of the community to consider joining the NMB to visit the website as detailed on the agenda.

The meeting concluded at 3.29pm