

Minutes of the meeting of the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee (GATCOM) held on 31 July 2025

Present:	
Tom Crowley	Chair
Angie Hills	ABTA
Cllr Alan Jones	Burstow Parish Council
Cllr Helyn Clack	Surrey County Council
Cllr Malcolm Fillmore	Rusper Parish Council
Cllr Peter Osborne	Kent County Council
Cllr Mike George	Horley Town Council
Cllr Richard Biggs	Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Ed Winter	GACC - Environmental Groups
Cllr Nicholas White	Tandridge District Council
Samantha Williams	Passenger Advisory Group
Cllr Garry Wall	West Sussex County Council
Cllr Bob Bowdler	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Christopher Philips	Mid Sussex District Council
Cllr Nick Hilton	Crawley Borough Council
Hugh McConnellogue	Airline Operators Committee
Cllr Bradley Nelson	Mole Valley District Council
Cllr Lisa Scott	Charlwood Parish Council
Jonathan Drew	Noise Management Oversight Board Chair
Liz Giles	London Chamber of Commerce

Also in attendance:	
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
Goran Jovanovic	Head of Noise & Airspace Strategy, GAL
Monique Smart	GATCOM Secretariat
Graham Lake	GATCOM Technical Advisor

1. Apologies and Welcomes

1.1 Apologies were received from: Cllr Nigel Emery (Horsham District Council), Ana Christie (Sussex Chamber of Commerce), Brett North (Gatwick Diamond), Dominic Rothwell (Unite) and Fran Downton (Tourism South-East).

1.2 GATCOM welcomed new members Garry Wall (West Sussex County Council), Peter Osbourne (Kent County Council), Nick Hilton (Crawley Borough Council) and Bradley Nelson (Mole Valley District Council) to their first GATCOM meeting.

1.3 The Chair noted that this was Stewart Wingate, London Gatwick Chief Executive, last meeting before he leaves to take up his new role as Managing Director UK Airports. The Chair thanked Stewart for his support and commitment to GATCOM over the last 15 years and wished him well in his new role.

1.4 Stewart Wingate thanked all GATCOM members for the positive and constructive working relationship that had been established over the years. He paid particular thanks to the current Chair Tom Crowley and past Chair Dr John Godfrey, also to the

current Secretariat Monique Smart and the previous Secretariat Paula Street. Stewart also thanked Samantha Williams and the Passenger Advisory Group including the previous PAG Chair Peter Hall. Also, Mike George and Alan Jones who had both undertaken the role of lead members for noise and Helyn Clack as GATCOM Vice Chair and the work she had been involved with the Noise Management Board.

1.5 Stewart reminded members that Pierre-Hugues Schmit would join Gatwick as Chief Executive on 1st September.

2. Minutes of The Last Meeting

2.1 Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of GATCOM held on 24 April 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Membership and Appointments

3.1 The Secretariat introduced the previously circulated report (copies attached to the signed minutes) updating on membership and setting out for approval the appointments to be made to GATCOM's sub-groups and Vice Chair.

3.2 Resolved – That GATCOM:

- Noted the changes in GATCOM membership.
- Agreed the appointment of Helyn Clack as Vice Chair of GATCOM for 2025/26.
- Agreed the membership of GATCOM Steering Group for 2025/26 including Surrey District Councils having 3 representatives for an additional year.
- Agreed the Airlines and Travel/Tour Operators seats on PAG for 2025/26 as detailed in section 3.5 of the report.
- Agreed the change in tenure for the PAG Chair (from 4 years to 2) and Vice Chair (from 2 years to 1) to be effective when the current terms end.
- Agreed the nominations for GATCOM Members to NaTMAG as detailed in section 4.2 of the report.
- Agree the GATCOM representatives to the Noise Management Board as detailed in section 4.4 of the report.

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 10 July 2025.

4.2 GATCOM noted the Steering Group report and the attached Air Quality Reports. It was noted that the Air Quality Report had also been added to the GATCOM website.

5. Passenger Advisory Group

5.1 The Chair of PAG, Samantha Williams, introduced the report (copies attached to the signed minutes) of the last PAG meeting and activities during the last quarter. Samantha highlighted the photos in her report and thanked Darcey Halder from GAL for taking the time out to escort PAG on a visit to the biodiversity areas of the airport.

5.2 Samantha also mentioned that the Customer Services Working Group of PAG had been looking at the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to assist with passenger feedback. The same working group have also had two passenger complaints referred to them for review since the last GATCOM meeting.

5.3 PAG welcome the outcome of the CAA Annual Airport Accessibility Report that has rated the assisted travel service at Gatwick as 'very good'. The Assisted Travel Working Group of PAG works closely with the team at GAL and know the dedicated work that goes on to achieve this.

5.4 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.

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 highlighted by Stewart were:

- The NATS technical issue that took place yesterday, although the timespan of the disruption was limited it did result in cancelled and diverted flights across the country. For Gatwick and its airlines, the focus was to manage the disruption and reset the following day. EasyJet added that due to several standby aircraft being available at Gatwick the ongoing disruption has been limited.
- The Next Generation security project is working well, and passengers no longer need to remove electrical items and liquids from their hand luggage.
- GAL responded to the Secretary of State additional planning requirements for the Northern Runway Project. This response was published and comments from interested parties closed on 9 June. The final response from the Secretary of State is expected on or before 27 October.
- Gatwick is partnering with Vital Energy to support the decarbonisation plan helping to reach net zero for scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030.
- Uganda Airlines started operations to Gatwick on 18 May and Vueling celebrated its 15 millionth passenger departing from London Gatwick.
- The Gatwick Airport Community Trust (GACT) has awarded £203,253 to 113 applicants this year from across Sussex, Surrey, and Kent.
- Gatwick once again sponsored the Crawley STEM in the park that welcomed over 5000 attendees.
- On 23 June to mark International Women's Day, Gatwick welcomed 70 girls from local schools to the airport.
- Stewart and colleagues attended the UK Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum in Leeds in May and launched the Gatwick Region Airport Economic Zone (AEZ).

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

- It was asked if the new proposals for expansion at Heathrow Airport had any impact on the business case for the Northern Runway at Gatwick. Stewart responded stating that this was expected and therefore taken into consideration by GAL and shareholders when developing the plans to bring the Northern Runway into routine use. The deadline for proposals for Heathrow was today so once published GAL will look at them in more detail.
- The growth prospects for Gatwick were also questioned considering that movements are still below those in 2019. Stewart responded stating that this has been looked at closely across the London and Southeast region and except for Luton Airport, there has been a moderation in the growth of passenger volume. Some of the issues believed to be behind this include the availability of new fleet and maintenance issues which has resulted in grounded fleet. However, GAL remain confident that passenger demand is there to support the use of the Northern Runway and other airport expansion.
- TUI's participation in the Sky Teams Aviation Challenge to make flights as sustainable as possible, was highlighted from Stewart's report and it was suggested that perhaps a representative from TUI could provide further information or attend a future GATCOM meeting.
- It was asked if the delays into the night period as a result of the NATS issues this week count as dispensations as part of the night quota. Stewart stated that this was something that would be discussed with the DfT but as yet no decision had been reached.

7 Member's Questions

7.1 No written members questions were received.

8 Update on Decade of Change: Achieving Net Zero for GAL Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030.

8.1 GATCOM welcomed Mark Edwards, Head of Sustainability and Steve Kelso, Head of Engineering, GAL, who provided a [presentation](#) on the progress of the delivery programme to achieve Net Zero for GAL scope 1 and 2 Green House Gas emissions by 2030.

8.2 The key points highlighted and questions from members as a result of the presentation, and the responses given, included the following:

- GAL is making great progress towards net zero. Scope 1 GHG reduction actions include replacing gas boilers with heat source air pumps and replacing petrol and diesel vehicles with electric.
- Residuals, including fire training, de-icer, f-gases used in air conditioning units and not replacing very low duty non-life expired assets such as snow ploughs, are being reduced as much as possible.
- All GAL diesel vehicles now use Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), but these will eventually be replaced by electric vehicles.
- It was noted that electric was preferable to hydrogen as most of the fleet at Gatwick is typically used for short journeys and hydrogen is better as a range extender, hence why it is being used by Metrobus for local buses.
- With the increased need for electricity from the national grid, members queried if this would have any effect on the local power supply. GAL reassured members that it is are working closely with UKPN to understand demand and the airport

will not receive any preferential supply. It was noted that not all vehicles would need to be charged at once and could be charged overnight when the local need is less.

- Of the options identified for heating, air source heat pumps are the preferred "champion" option but connecting to a district heat network solution is also being explored as a "challenger option".

9 Network Rail and Rail Services Update

9.1 GATCOM welcomed Emily James from Network Rail who provided a brief update on rail reform. She explained that there are two key strands of rail reform. The first being public ownership of the rail companies and in some areas this has already happened. The commitment is for all to transfer by the end of this parliament. The second strand is around legislation to establish Great British Railways (GBR) that will bring track and train together. GBR is expected to stand up sometime in 2027, but a lot of the work is being done in the meantime to progress rail reform.

9.2 Emily explained that a new passenger watchdog is planned as well as a strategy covering a 30-year period for the railways to allow long term planning.

9.3 GATCOM also welcomed Alec Brown from Govia Thameslink Railway who provided an update and [presentation](#) on rail services serving Gatwick Airport including information about performance, demand and growth.

9.4 Alec explained that GTR has a contract until 2028 to provide the services after which time it is expected to move to public ownership. It was also noted that there is a break clause in the contract of 3 months' notice.

9.5 Questions from members as a result of the updates and presentation, and the responses given, included the following:

- Members asked if the railway could meet the demand in passenger numbers that would be created if the Northern Runway proposals progress. Alec responded stating that additional passengers help strengthen the case for rail investment to the DfT. There are things that can be done in the short term to increase capacity as detailed in the presentation such as the scope to run longer trains. Emily added that the long-term strategy being created by GBR will include investment.
- Members also stated that the need for investment and improvements at Croydon and on the Brighton Main Line are well known. Alec responded stating that new proposals are being prepared and once they are available, they would be happy to come back and present to GATCOM.
- It was asked if there were any plans to improve rail links from Kent and East Sussex to Gatwick that are not via London. It was suggested GATCOM write to Network Rail on this issue to seek an understanding of any future plans.

10 Airspace Update

10.1 The Chair referred members to the Airspace update report (copies attached to the signed minutes) and explained that unfortunately Andy Sinclair was unable to attend GATCOM today. Goran Jovanovic, Airspace Change Programme Manager, GAL, was in attendance and provided responses to member questions as follows:

- GATCOM's Environment representative from GACC stated that the FED report called on airports to undertake exploratory engagement with stakeholders and this has not happened. Communities, especially those who may be affected by

LAS are concerned and GACC are called on GAL to hold a meeting with those groups to give them reassurance that FED is being considered. Goran reassured that GAL have taken into account FED principles in their calculations and assessment. However, GAL are governed by the CAP1616 process which prevents them from public engagement and discussion ahead of the public consultation (stage 3). Communities and members of the public will have sight and be able to provide feedback during the upcoming public consultation stage. The Chair added that this had been raised at the recent GATCOM Steering Group meeting and the conclusion of that discussion was for GATCOM to request a briefing by the CAA

11 Noise Management Board

11.1 The Chair referred members to the NMB update report and work programme (copies attached to the signed minutes). Jonathan Drew, NMB Oversight Board Chair, introduced the report that summarised the work of the Noise Management Board since the last GATCOM meeting.

11.2 In addition to the report Jonathan informed members that this year's annual public noise meeting would be in the form of an Aviation Fair and would take place on 1st October. Communication would be coming out soon.

11.3 Regarding the recent round of NMB meetings there had been good engagement and discussion around each project. Jonathan was delighted that Rolls Royce had joined as a new member and discussions were being had with Airbus about what they could provide to the NMB.

11.4 Jonathan also added that in relation to the point raised about the need for the CAA to incorporate FED, this was raised in the letters between the NMB and the CAA Chief Executive last year.

11.5 Jonathan also paid thanks to Stewart Wingate as it was under his management that the NMB was established.

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 key messages.

13 Date of Next Meeting of GATCOM and its Sub-Groups

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

- GATCOM - Thursday 6 November 2025 at 2.00pm, in person at Gatwick Airport.
- GATCOM Steering Group - Thursday 9 October 2025
- Passenger Advisory Group - Thursday 18 September 2025

- NaTMAG Thursday 7 August 2025

13.2 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 3.45pm