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1/2009

GATCOM LOOKS FORWARD TO THE OLYMPICS

The impact of London 2012 on Gatwick and the airport station is on the agenda for the next meeting of GATCOM – the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee.

The meeting on Thursday, January 29, will include a presentation by Danny Sloan, BAA's Director of Planning for the Olympics, on the impact of the Games for the airport and the region.

It will include –

- The scale of the Olympics and the benefits to the airport.
- The implications for the airport station.
- The types of passengers likely to be using Gatwick together with the opportunities that exist for creating great first and last impressions.

Dr John Godfrey, Chairman of GATCOM, said: "Planning for the Olympics is a very important piece of work because Gatwick will be second only to Heathrow as a main gateway into the UK for London 2012.

"It is vitally important that visitors are able to travel to and from their various destinations as smoothly as possible, and I am sure there will be a great deal of interest in Mr Sloan's presentation."

The GATCOM meeting is taking place at The Holiday Inn, Povey Cross Road, Horley, from 2pm.

Members are also due to receive an update on the proposed improvements to Gatwick station, and Andy Flower, Managing Director of BAA Gatwick, will give an update on the process involved in the sale of Gatwick.

Also on the agenda will be a series of important environmental issues including BAA's new noise complaints handling policy.

Detlef Golletz, Head of Transport and Infrastructure for the South East England Regional Development Agency (SEEDA), will also be at the meeting to give an overview of how the agency works with the airport.

SEEDA recently became a new GATCOM member organisation.

Dr Godfrey said: "GATCOM represents everyone with an interest in the airport, and we will also be receiving a report from our Passenger Advisory Group on its activities and recommendations for improvements.

"As always, the public are very welcome to attend and hear what is taking place in and around the airport."

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Note to Editors:

GATCOM has 28 appointed representatives from a wide range of interests including local authorities, civil aviation, passenger, business and community and environmental groups. A Government representative is also present at the main GATCOM meetings, together with BAA Gatwick's Managing Director and his senior management team.

WHAT GATCOM DOES:

- SEEKS to build interest, communication and understanding between the airport and its users, local residents and the business community.
- CONSIDERS airport issues concerned with the environment, surface access, employment, the economy and the circumstances of local communities.
- WORKS with the airport to secure a sustainable development strategy.
- WORKS to protect and enhance the interests of passengers and other users of the airport.
- CONSIDERS and comments on matters referred to it by BAA Gatwick.
- CONSIDERS and responds to consultations from Government and other sources that are material to the operation and future development of the airport.

For further enquiries and requests for interview contact Nigel Galloway on 01243 777722.