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Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee

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GATCOM 22ND JULY 2010

HEADLINES OF MEETING

Planning for the Olympics

Gatwick Airport Ltd. gave an update on the preparation for the increased traffic expected for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012. Gatwick Airport Ltd's key aim is to provide a great welcome with a positive airport experience and a first class onward journey for the Games family, Heads of State and spectators. The expected increase in traffic through Gatwick would span mid-June to mid-September 2012 peaking in July/August. The priorities for planning are:

- Capacity planning
- Multi-agency operational planning
- Multi-agency resilience planning
- Onward transport infrastructure – Gatwick Station, Gatwick Express and other transport packages
- Promoting sustainable transport options
- Marketing Gatwick as a key gateway and seeking designation for a port of entry for the Games
- Customer service skills
- Volunteering arrangements
- Facilitating pre-Games visits
- Keeping the local community informed

Gatwick Airport Ltd is working with a number of key stakeholders and will provide a further update to GATCOM at a future meeting.

Gatwick Railway Station

A decision on the funding for the Gatwick Station enhancement scheme is still awaited from the Government. GATCOM has written to the Secretary of State for Transport to urge him to ensure that funding for the Improvement scheme was still forthcoming. A response had been received from Norman Baker, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in his role as Minister for regional and local major schemes. He has advised that the Secretary of State was still considering whether or not he can agree that additional funding can be released so that the enhancement scheme can be delivered at the same time as the planned maintenance works. Members were urged to encourage their organisation to continue to lobby the Government.

Gatwick Express

GATCOM noted the Steering Group's discussion with David Scorey, Franchise Improvement Director, Southern about its franchise commitments in respect of the Gatwick Express and Southern services to/from Gatwick. GATCOM remains concerned

about the franchise commitment to replace all the existing Gatwick Express rolling stock with Class 442 units (with the narrow, single width exterior doors) by May next year and the commitment to install ticket gates at Gatwick and Platforms 13 and 14 at London Victoria. Recognising the tremendous support for preserving the Gatwick Express amongst a wide range of organisations and communities around the airport, GATCOM has urged Gatwick Airport Ltd to instigate another "Save the Gatwick Express" campaign.

GATCOM will also write to the Minister for Aviation and Rail to request that as part of the review of the rail franchising policy, to consider the need for appropriate rolling stock to be used on airport express services and to give further consideration to the gating of stations.

Airport Performance

GATCOM is most encouraged by the improvement in service standards at Gatwick particularly in respect of customer service at security and security queuing times which had met regulatory performance targets for six consecutive months. Members were pleased to note that the locally agreed queuing times with the UK Borders Agency (UKBA), which were more stringent than the nationally agreed targets, have been introduced and that Gatwick Airport Ltd. was working with the UKBA to improve performance. GATCOM will invite UKBA to a future meeting.

The Passenger Advisory Group (PAG) is however most concerned about the excessive queues at Easyjet's check-in desks and the Chairman of PAG was endeavouring to meet a representative of Easyjet to discuss this and other performance issues.

Local Air Quality Monitoring

Members were pleased to note that there had been no breach in the annual air quality average standard for nitrogen dioxide or the air quality standards for other pollutants under Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's air quality management regime for the Horley Gardens Estate. GATCOM is encouraged by the continuing downward trend in the levels of pollution on the Horley Gardens Estate and is cautiously optimistic that this downward trend would continue.

South East Airports Task Force

GATCOM has welcomed the establishment of a South East Airports Task Force by the new Government to explore ways in which to make the most of existing airport infrastructure and to improve the experience for all users. GATCOM will write to the Minister for Aviation and Rail, the Rt. Hon. Theresa Villiers MP to register its interest in participating in the work of the Task Force at the appropriate time, particularly in respect of the workstreams on surface access, security queuing and the UKBA.

Vice-Chairman of Gatcom

Neil Maltby, Mole Valley District Council was re-appointed as Vice-Chairman of GATCOM for the ensuing year.

Appointment of Sub-Groups and GATCOM's Lead Member for Noise Issues

GATCOM appointed members to serve on the GATCOM Steering Group, Passenger Advisory Group and Gatwick Airport Ltd's Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group and Ground Noise Committee.

Alan Jones, Tandridge District Council, was also re-appointed as GATCOM's lead member for noise issues and to represent GATCOM on the DfT's Aircraft Noise Monitoring Advisory Group. Members expressed their thanks and appreciation to Alan Jones for his commitment and the time he dedicated in taking on this important role.