

NOISE MANAGEMENT BOARD

GATWICK AIRPORT

NMB/12 – Meeting Review

Introduction

This paper provides an overview of the NMB/12 meeting held on September 26th, which in addition to the standing NMB topics, discussed two fundamental areas; the workplan for 2019/2020 and, the NMB Constitutional Review, for which it allowed an hour.

The final draft NMB workplan for the 2019/2020 period is based on feedback from NMB/11, discussion at the NMB workplan workshop held with community groups in August, and additional CNG feedback. The plan was presented to NMB who have also received a written copy. Members were requested to provide by the end of October any further comments regarding final adjustments, prior to the adoption of the plan which will guide NMB activities until March 2020.

In June 2019, under the current arrangements, NMB members will also reach the end of their first term of appointment. NMB/11 introduced the opportunity to reflect upon the constitution of the NMB and to consider improving the Board, learning the lessons of its first term based on feedback sought from all NMB Members. Following further developments since the last NMB, a detailed plan and accelerated timetable taking account of additional CNG comments was discussed at NMB/12.

Agenda item 2 Review of Matters Arising from NMB/11

The meeting discussed the actions agreed in June, particularly those activities progressing the planned Reduced Night Noise (RNN) trial, the development of suitable metrics to measure the balance of airport growth and noise, and the Fair and Equitable Dispersal (FED) of flights.

The proposed RNN trial intended to measure the actual noise effects of predictable, consistent approach profiles for aircraft, and to support the development of practical options for delivery of FED. NMB was informed early in the year that to meet the related statutory obligations for a January 2019 trial start, a decision on whether to proceed must be taken no later than the June meeting of NMB. NMB agreed to defer the June decision to an Ad-Hoc meeting of NMB held in mid-July, to provide time to address the items raised by CNG. The NMB had unanimously agreed that the trial should proceed once these CNG issues had been addressed. No satisfactory conclusion has been reached either in July or since. The RNN trial planning is nevertheless continuing although the January 2019 launch date will not now be met.

NMB was also briefed on the development of suitable metrics to measure the balance of growth and noise. This work is continuing as scheduled, the suite of metrics which will measure noise against forecast growth and a process for the monitoring of noise impacts against forecast are expected by the end of 2018.

NMB was again informed that a systemised delivery of FED would not be possible prior to the introduction of airspace modernisation, but that the 2019 work plan has incorporated the task of developing an operations concept for FED. This important step will enable FED delivery mechanisms

that make use of the navigation technologies now available to be identified, designed and developed. This could then permit airspace change proposals to be prepared that incorporate FED delivery, subject to full public consultation obligations.

Agenda item 3 NMB workplan 2019/2020

The current 2017/2018 NMB workplan will be superseded by a new programme to take effect at the beginning of the 2019/2020 financial year. The proposals for the new work plan are focussed on the need to:

- Improve the balance between Departure and Arrival Initiatives
- Reduce the number of workplan activities prioritising those that can potentially deliver real noise improvement, carrying forward some activities from the current plan
- Finalise the Workplan and the NMB workshop schedule for 2019

NMB/12 was provided with the finalised draft workplan for discussion and approval. The plan reflects discussions held at NMB/11, the NMB workshop held on 22nd August which deep dived into the potential workplan topics and, community feedback on priorities since provided by NMB members. The plan includes:

- Generic Activities not specific to phase of flight including Airspace modernisation
- The balance of Growth and Noise
- Arrivals Activities
- Departures Activities
- Workshops Plan and Communications

Agenda item 4 Review of NMB Constitution

The NMB is a unique body, bringing together representatives from all stakeholders in the management and mitigation of aircraft noise, with elected representatives and anti-noise campaign groups - Community Noise Groups (CNG). The board has been operating for more than two years and has now reached a level of maturity that warrants a root and branch review for the benefit of all stakeholders and to help continued progress in noise reduction strategies for Gatwick.

To conduct the review, a Sub-Committee of the NMB has been convened, led by the Surrey County Council NMB Member and additionally comprising NMB Members from West Sussex County Council, ANS and the NMB sponsor; GAL. The committee which reports to the full NMB will conduct a review of the purpose, objectives, governance, structure, membership, balance, legitimacy, outcomes, leadership and administration of the NMB, considering the views of all NMB Members. The proposals for the sub-committee, which were announced in August, were adapted to reflect comments arising from CNG. This included a request for an accelerated timetable, the balance of industry and community representatives, achieved by the addition of a County Council Member, and the establishment of a plan for an ad-hoc meeting of NMB in late November to formally receive the report of the review findings.

Despite the changes made to the review plan intended to take account of CNG comments, CNG rejected the proposal, calling for both CNG involvement in the review committee and its independent leadership. There was no support for this proposal from any other member of the NMB. Without agreement on changes to the review plan constituency and timetable, NMB was informed that it would formally revert to the review plan agreed at NMB/11, due to report in May

2019. After a lengthy discussion which occupied the time allocated for discussion of the NMB work plan, it was agreed that the NMB review sub-committee would continue its work and would be requested to consider including a CNG member of the NMB in its sub-committee.

Agenda item 5: Any other Business

The NMB will develop plans for the annual NMB public meeting which will be held on December 5th and which will use the format welcomed last year, making use of a group of experts, providing the opportunity for bi-lateral discussion of a wide range of topics.