

NOISE MANAGEMENT BOARD

GATWICK AIRPORT

NMB/14 – Meeting Review

Introduction

This paper reviews the fourteenth meeting of the Noise Management Board, held on 8th May 2019. This was the last full meeting of the NMB's first 3-year term. Members were briefed on current work plans developed with their input and, received a consolidated summary of NMB noise initiatives delivered and reported to NMB over the past three years.

The NMB had the privilege of hosting observers from the Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise (ICCAN). Head Commissioner Robert Light was joined by ICCAN Secretary Sam Hartley and Commissioner Simon Henley, who is the ICCAN focal point for Gatwick.

New governance recommendations developed by the NMB Review Committee at the request of NMB, were discussed, as well as the practical aspects of a proposed transition, including additional guidance provided by the Committee in its report to the NMB Chair. This guidance identifies several areas where further consideration will be required by the new NMB as a part of the transition, constitution and operation of the NMB's second term.

As regards its noise reduction work, the NMB Implementation Report included information on the 2019/20 Workplan. Also included is an extensive list of NMB meetings and workshops which underscores the level of time and effort involved, a significant consideration for community representatives in particular, who are obliged to give up their own time in order to participate.

NMB Workplan 2019/2020

A wide range of activity has been undertaken by the NMB to understand community perspectives and to explore the technical, procedural and institutional opportunities to deliver further noise reductions and other noise mitigation measures.

The activities captured within this Workplan will target both arrivals and departures and be progressed within and beyond the lifetime of the plan, which is based on the outcomes of the Workplan workshop and additional comments received from NMB Members. These have been developed into a set of organised tasks, which also take into account the Airport's Noise Action Plan that has now been adopted by DEFRA. A 2019/2020 NMB Workplan includes a number of continuing activities from the previous workstream, and the potentially viable options resulting from analysis of the feasibility of additional measures proposed by community and other members of the NMB. When the items in the Workplan are formally agreed by the new Noise Management Board, the implementation detail for each task will be further developed.

NMB Review Committee Governance Proposals

The Chairman reported that the Noise Management Board's review of its functions and the potential need for changes to the NMB constitution was commenced in April 2018. In July, Community Noise Groups published a letter of no-confidence in the NMB as currently constituted and led, withdrawing their support. Alternative CNG representatives were therefore sought for the NMB, leading to a modification of position by the CNG Members, who then chose to extend their NMB participation until the end of the first term of the NMB (NMB/14).

In response to the CNG letter of no confidence, the Board established a Review Committee, which began its work in September to consider all aspects of the Noise Management Board's work and membership. The Committee was chaired by the Member for Surrey County Council, and included a NMB representative from; West Sussex County Council, Community Noise Groups, Gatwick Airlines and GAL. The Review Committee provided the NMB with a fully considered report in November and upon further request from the NMB, new governance reflecting the review's findings was developed by the Committee. This was fully consulted and provided to the Board at the beginning of May 2019.

The Committee recommended to NMB/14 that the new governance be provided by the outgoing NMB to the proposed new Boards (NMB Executive Committee and NMB Community Forum) for any adjustments and adoption. Included in this proposal was the intent that progressing resolution of the governance considerations set out in the Committee's letter to NMB, should be the responsibility of a new Board. The Review Committee also proposed a transition plan, in effect, the continuation of the present NMB and governance, operating in an interim/shadow mode with a time limitation of the scheduled October NMB. The objective of the October backstop being the latest target date for newly appointed chairs to take up their roles.

During the meeting, CNG members tabled an amendment to the proposed new governance that, if accepted, would increase the proposed CNG membership identified for the NMB Executive (NEX), creating an imbalance with the proposed elected council membership and with industry membership of NEX. Only the CNG voted in favour of the amendment, while all other members opposed the tabled change, which was accordingly rejected by NMB.

NMB/14 was then asked to agree that the proposed new governance and related considerations developed by the NMB Review Committee¹ should be recommended to a new board. And that until the new Chairs are appointed, that the pre-existing NMB and governance should continue in shadow mode until not later than the scheduled October meeting. The outcome of the NMB/14 vote:

Opposed	In Favour
CNG Pair #1	Airlines
CNG Pair #2	ANS (Airport ATM Provider)
CNG Pair #3	Civil Aviation Authority
CNG Pair #4	Department for Transport
	GAL
	GATCOM
	NATS (En-Route ATM provider)
	County Council Pair - West Sussex/Surrey
	County Council Pair - East Sussex/Kent
	NMB Chair
Total: 4 votes (28%)	Total: 10 Votes (72%)

Following this second vote with respect to the recommendations of the Review Committee, all four CNG pairs declined the invitation provided by the Chair to reconsider their position and insisted that the qualified voting majority as described in the NMB ToR approved in 2016 should apply. This left NMB, who's numerical majority approved the proposal, to close its last meeting without a formally agreed plan or mandate for transition to a second term. Based on the NMB's discussions, work on the NMB's future governance, structure and constitution will be paused to allow GAL further consideration of how to proceed.

¹ NMB Review Committee Members: - Chair: Helyn Clack Surrey CC, Vice Chair: Liz Kitchen West Sussex CC, CNG: Athol Forbes, Airlines: Douglas Moule, GAL: Tim Norwood.