



## LONDON GATWICK AIRSPACE & NOISE

### Annual Public Meeting

25 September 2024 | 14:00 – 17:30

#### Summary Note

The Airspace and Noise Annual Public Meeting took place, in person, at the London Gatwick Sofitel Hotel. The event included industry, government, and regulator representatives, along with our airline colleagues. Presentations included an overview of Gatwick's year to date, community engagement initiatives, an update on the completed Reduced Night Noise trial and Airline Noise Performance Table, as well as insights from some of our airline colleagues. The event ended with a positive Panel discussion, which included the new NMB team. The slides from the meeting are available on our website.

**Michael Kissman**, London Gatwick's Special Projects Manager, welcomed attendees and chaired proceedings throughout the event.

#### Presentations

**Andy Sinclair**, London Gatwick's Head of Noise and Airspace Strategy, provided a summary of the year, an overview of London Gatwick's Airspace & Noise work, and an update on significant airspace change projects.

- By the end of 2024 airport traffic across the whole year is expected to be close to 95% of 2019.
- The introduction of the Rapid Exit Taxiway in February improved runway performance, however, air traffic restrictions across large swathes of Europe impacted airline on time performance.
- Noise management initiatives taken forward included the development of the system to monitor proposed new Departure Noise Limits and the trial of flight procedures for arriving aircraft aimed to reduce noise.
- Active engagement on noise management continued through the airport's consultative committee (GATCOM), the Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group and the Noise Management Board.
- Updates on the timelines for the airspace modernisation project and Route 4 Standard Instrument Departure routes airspace changes were shared, with consultations planned to start in Q1 and Q2 2025 respectively.

**Melanie Wrightson**, Stakeholder Engagement Manager, gave a presentation on how London Gatwick is working at the heart of the local community, investing in local programmes and partnerships that build better communities, enable social mobility, improve health and wellbeing and crucially, support local people. It included an overview of London Gatwick's community investment and partnerships within the framework of the Decade of Change Sustainability Policy and focussed on:

- Community funds - Decade of Change goal to invest £5m by 2030
- Outlining the routes to funding with case study examples of successful projects.
- Charity partnerships - Decade of Change goal to raise £2m by 2030
- Outlining London Gatwick's charity partners, support and impact.



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- Community Partnerships
- Outlining how London Gatwick contributes to a thriving local community by investing in programmes and partnerships for those communities most affected by airport operations. Gatwick Greenspace Partnership and The Hygiene Bank were illustrated as examples.

**Jonathan Drew**, the Chair of London Gatwick's NMB Oversight Board, introduced the new Noise Management Board, giving a brief overview of the updated structure and governance. Jonathan also took the opportunity to introduce the Independent Community Representative for the Community Assembly and the Programme Manager for the Programme Steering Group.

**Nick McFarlane**, Egis Group's Senior Advisor, provided a summary of London Gatwick's Reduced Night Noise trial, which ran from 11 January - 11 July 2024:

- The Reduced Night Noise (RNN) trial is an initiative set up in response to an NMB ambition to reduce the number of people disturbed by night arrivals into London Gatwick.
- It is a trial of new procedures and technology that aims to reduce the number of "outlier" aircraft that are particularly low or loud.
- The trial was run only during the least busy hours of the night (0130 to 0500).
- It was subject to CAA approval as an airspace trial and will ultimately feed into airspace designs for London Gatwick's FASI-South Programme.
- Monthly reports were produced throughout the trial and can be found on the London Gatwick website.
- Funding has been granted through the CAA Airspace Modernisation Strategy Support Fund for follow on work in simulators, working with airlines to utilise the data gathered during the recent trial. This work will start from October 2024 and run for 12 months.

**Pete Rafano**, Envirosuite's Airport Business Development Manager, along with London Gatwick's Sam Tull and Richard Lipscomb, were on hand throughout the event to give demonstrations of WebTrak and how it can be used by our surrounding community members:

- WebTrak is London Gatwick's online flight tracker that holds up to three months historical data.
- You can view arrivals, departures and other nearby airport aircraft activity up to a 50 nautical mile radius. Also included is rainfall data and noise monitoring data.
- Complaints can be made through the tracker. The available data has a 25-minute time delay to ensure accuracy of the flight track information.

**Kimberley O'Neill**, London Gatwick's Airspace & Noise Programme Manager, gave a presentation on the interactive Airline Noise Performance Table.

- The dashboard features all airlines that have a minimum of 10 flights per week and helps to identify airlines for improvement in noise abatement procedures by engaging with them directly. The Airspace Office have engaged with 31 airlines this year to date.
- The table continues to have positive feedback on its effectiveness from airlines and NaTMAG. The next steps are to consider adding additional metrics to the main summary table once the Low Noise Arrivals Metric is embedded into our noise reporting.



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- Both this table, and the Route 4 table will continue to be overseen by NaTMAG, however the Airspace Office will use the table to continue with their airline engagement programme.

Following presentations, a Q&A session was held with a panel made up of:

**Professor Paul Hooper** – Noise Management Board Expert Advisor

**Douglas Moule** – Noise Management Board Expert Advisor

**Rachel Thomas** – Noise Management Board Expert Advisor

**Andy Sinclair** – London Gatwick

**Dr Cara Mulholland** – Noise Management Board Independent Community Representative

**Nick McFarlane** – Egis Group Senior Advisor

Thank you to all those who attended the 2024 London Gatwick Airspace & Noise Annual Public Meeting, and a special thanks to those who participated, as well as industry experts who came along and made themselves available for discussions during the breaks.

We look forward to seeing you next year.

Dr Rebecca Mian, and the London Gatwick Airspace & Noise team.