

Minutes of NATMAG meeting 13 January 2012

Attendees:

Tom Denton	GAL
Ros Howell	GATCOM
Alan Jones	GATCOM/TDC
Liz Kitchen	GATCOM/HDC
Nigel Owen	NATS
Andy Taylor	NATS
John Byng	GACC
Christopher Hersey	GATCOM
Pam Lovell	BA
Brian Cox	CBC
Peter Long	R-BDC
Siegi Fake	GAL

1. Internal Noise Governance Review

TD explained the aim of the review was to try to bring all noise Governance meetings together to make more efficient use of allotted time. AJ,PL,BC RH and CH presented feedback to the group on the ideas presented. TD summarised that the technical noise meeting should stay as is but it may be possible to combine GNC and NATMAG by extending NATMAG time and also any special reviews would be covered at a separate meeting if needed.

Action - TD will redraft and circulate ToR before the next meeting.

2. Edenbridge Valley Noise Working Group

TD advised this was a short term group that met several times last year. In October Sir John Stanley and Stewart Wingate met for a concluding meeting with the group. The long term report has not yet been signed off as it has not been fully agreed by all parties. TD agreed to publish once agreement was reached. The executive summary has been agreed and was discussed as below:

- 1. GAL to commission independent research on the volume, scope and nature of all complaints lodged with the FEU since 4th December 2009. (*Residents are rather concerned to find that this analysis is not already happening as a matter of course.*)**

The airport feel that analysis and research is carried out via the FEU quarterly and annual reports. These are reported on at GATCOM and published on the airport website.

- 2. GAL to provide considered response to each item on the resident's 'wish list' (at Section 4), with a thorough assessment of practicability, cost and benefits and explanation if implementation is not thought practicable.**

GAL will respond to residents wish list on agreement and publication of the final report.

- 3. GAL, local action groups and elected representatives should be asked to make a positive commitment to work towards positive working relationships**

GAL believe we already have strong working relationships with our consultative committee, the nominated elected representatives and local action groups such as GACC. We are also prepared to reach out to other action groups as has been demonstrated with this report. This was supported by members.

- 4. GAL to organise a seminar in the Eden Valley area (attended by DfT and NATS) on the END Noise Action Plan**

GAL support this initiative and are happy to be involved in such an event. However feedback from members suggested support for a noise event but that it should be airport wide and not restricted to the East of the airport.

- 5. GAL to ask GATCOM to review the mechanism for community input on approach noise issues from the Eden Valley area and consider inviting additional representation.**

GAL happy to consider the membership of NATMAG to address this issue. GAL suggests additional seats for people from both ends of the runway. Members were not supportive of this approach but were happy to extend NATMAG membership to the GATCOM elected representative for the Edenbridge area.

- 6. GAL to consider extending the membership of NATMAG to cover communities affected by approach noise. (Residents would like to see NATMAG 'seconding' suitably qualified individuals rather than seeking representation from councils.)**

As outlined above GAL support extension of the NATMAG membership. However members thought that the residents comment in brackets was inappropriate and that the group already seeks relevant technical expertise as and when required.

- 7. GAL to review the Noise section of its website and consult with local communities on the style, format and tone of data and information they would expect to see.**

GAL support this idea and have already begun assessment of the current website. GAL are happy to receive the views and suggestions from external parties.

- 8. GAL to reaffirm its January 2010 statement that it does not have any current plans to make a planning application for a second runway before 2019.**

GAL have made this clear previously and also restate this in the current draft master plan. members were happy with the current GAL approach on this issue.

- 9. GAL makes a statement on its current approach to acoustic noise insulation and its plans for enhancement of the scheme up to 2019**

GAL restated the position already communicated to GATCOM and NATMAG members, the airport will consult on a new scheme this year with a view to rolling this out in 2013.

10. GAL to review its S106 Programme to assess the extent of benefits gained by local communities impacted by airport operations.

GAL and NATMAG members were happy to table an amendment to the current S106 joint local authority MOU. TD agreed to take this forward via the airports S106 Steering group.

11. GAL to develop a model to identify best environmental operational practice by airlines.

GAL already have an action in the END action plan to deliver this in 2012, this was endorsed by members.

12. GAL to make a statement with a clear date by which the noisiest aircraft will be phased out of operations at Gatwick.

GAL have an action in the END action plan to phase out the noisiest aircraft and to raise the number of chapter 4 aircraft to 85% by 2015.

13. GAL to publicly declare its aspiration to become the industry champion for operational best practice in the UK and EU

GAL support this and this was also endorsed by members

14. GAL to prioritise the development of a “rotating respite” trial process.

As members are aware GAL is in the process of discussing a range on noise mitigation issues with relevant stakeholders, rotating respite is one of these.

15. GAL to prioritise examination of aircraft approach angles of descent.

GAL happy to support this suggestion as we are already engaged with industry working groups to look at angles of descent, members were supportive.

16. GAL to make a statement calling for a full and thorough consultation on the new night flying regime in 2012.

GAL and NATMAG will play an active role in the Governments consultation when it is announced this year.

17. GAL to set aside an annual budget for NATMAG to commission independent research each year on best operational practice in the UK, EU and global context.

GAL are already committed to carrying out this work through our END noise action plan on a regular basis. It was felt by members that no additional money is required to deliver this.

18. GAL to make aviation-related noise a key theme in the draft Master plan consultation.

GAL will soon be in the process of assessing all feedback from the three month public consultation on the draft Master Plan. This theme has been raised through this process and will be assessed in line with all other feedback.

19. GAL to host an annual Aviation Noise conference with participants from the local community and other airports and communities in the UK and EU with a main focus on best practice in operations and civic engagement.

GAL supports this approach and see this being a similar initiative to point 4 above.

20. GAL to support a quarterly progress review meeting in order to track and develop these actions. (*Residents would like to see a continuation of the Working Group in order to develop and implement the actions and recommendations of this report*).

GAL has made the position clear. When the group was set up in December 2010 it was agreed that the group would conclude with a final report back meeting with Sir John Stanley and Stewart Wingate. This meeting was held on the 5 October 2010 and the working group was concluded, there will be no further working group meetings going forward.

TD to present actions list at next meeting

3. Runway Preference Report

PL explained that he felt the report did not meet the noise action plan expectation due to the lack of detail and depth on the impacts and benefits of operating a runway preference.

TD understood this point but explained that very early on in the researching for the report it became clear that operating a preference would not be possible. This was due to several logistical and safety issues that were communicated in writing by the FLOPC group. At this point it was decided that the report should take the form of a scoping review and that if and when these issues were overcome further detailed research and assessment would be needed.

PL RH and BC – stated that an addendum to report was needed explaining this and clarifying next steps. TD agreed to this and to reissue the amended report.

PL raised issues around the current methods of communicating noise and the metrics used. TD stated that noise contours are subject to review and best practice will be shared with LHR.

4. GACC Approach Noise Paper

As a result of running short on time it was agreed that TD respond to this paper in writing before the next NATMAG meeting to ensure a fuller discussion at that time.

5. PRNAV Update

AT gave a very detailed slide presentation on PRNAV trial progress and 4 possible next steps. The CAA have now stated that NATS need to implement PRNAV in full or drop it all together at Gatwick. Possible that NATS will implement PRNAV to SIDS. In 2018 airspace around London will be changed so this will only last until then.

TD and AT agreed that the presentation should be circulated to all members and a decision on which option to endorse will be taken at the next NATMAG

6. Rotating Respite

TD explained the status of this initiative and that discussions were still being had with NATS and DfT. At present there is no intention or proposal to carry out a trial. If deemed possible GAL and NATS will work up a trial plan and circulate to members in advance.

7. Next Meeting

16 February 2012 GNC 09.30 hours to 11.00 hours THEN NATMAG will start 11.30 hours to 13.30 hours.