

Gatwick Update

Planning Policy Committee Thursday, 23 June 2022

Report of: Interim Chief Planning Officer

Purpose: For decision

Publication status: Open

Wards affected: All

Executive summary:

Gatwick Airport Limited ('GAL') are progressing various workstreams including the Northern Runway Project Development Consent Order ('DCO'), FASI South Airspace Change Proposal, Gatwick Airspace Route 4 Option 7 Design Change and Gatwick Noise Land-Use Planning.

This report is to update Committee Members on the progress to date with the DCO process and other workstreams. It is also to confirm the governance arrangements established as part of the 23 September 2021 Committee, in relation to the continued Gatwick Member and Officer Group (GMOG) membership and their existing terms of reference.

This report supports the Council's priority of:

- Building a better Council
- Creating the homes, infrastructure and environment we need
- Supporting economic recovery in Tandridge
- Becoming a greener, more sustainable District

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Recommendations to Committee:

That:

- A. the contents of this report regarding the progress made to date in the DCO process and other workstreams be noted;
- B. the authority to be delegated to the Chief Executive and / or the current Interim Chief Planning Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, to respond to future consultations and other forms of engagement from relevant stakeholders at various stages of the DCO process remains as previously agreed; and
- C. to continue with the Gatwick Member Officer Group (GMOG) membership (Councillors Botten, Flower, Gillman, Lockwood and Moore) and existing terms of reference as previously agreed.

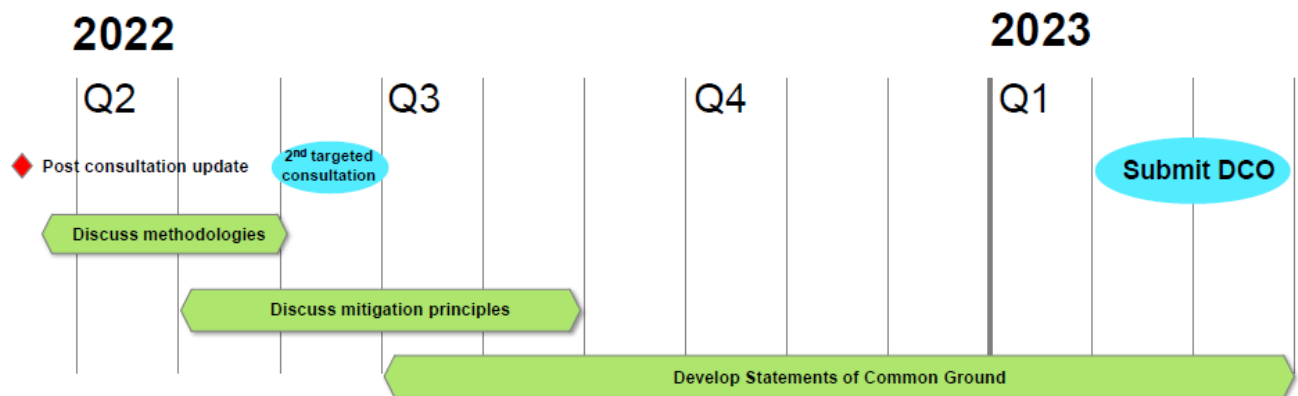
Reason for recommendations:

The local implications of proposals surrounding Gatwick Airport are significant. As a consultative body and host authority, the Council is required to engage in their varying initiatives and participate in the DCO process within the statutory timescales set.

Due to the rapid pace at which GAL are working towards on various projects, including the DCO process, without the continued delegation in place, this could result in the Council's inability to respond.

Gatwick Northern Runway Project DCO

- 1.1 As part of GAL's masterplan published in 2019, they announced to actively pursue bringing the existing standby runway (northern runway) into routine use alongside the main runway. GAL are required to apply for a DCO in order to obtain planning permission. This is a rigorous statutory planning process which is overseen by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).
- 1.2 GAL have so far undertaken a Section 42 statutory public consultation which ran for a period of 12 weeks in Autumn/Winter 2021, to which the Council responded. The Council's response was considered by this Committee at its meeting on 25 November 2021.
- 1.3 Following this, Officers from host and neighbouring authorities were invited for a post-consultation update from GAL in March 2022. In this, GAL presented an indicative timetable for the next steps which is illustrated below.



- 1.4 As indicated above, GAL intend to submit the DCO to the Planning Inspectorate in quarter 1 of 2023 (Jan – March 2023). This is a delay of over 6 months from their original proposals. GAL also explained that during the period until submission of the DCO, they would hold a series of topic working groups with local authority Officers and undertake an additional targeted consultation on highway design proposals in June 2022.
- 1.5 At the time of writing, Officers have been made aware of a six week statutory public consultation on GAL’s updated highway design proposals. This is due to take place on Tuesday 14 June 2022 to Wednesday 27 July 2022. Further information, such as the consultation material are still yet to be published. However, as the intention is for this to be a consultation focusing on new highway design proposal, technical advice and comments will be sought from Surrey County Council - predominantly as the Highways Authority for Tandridge, although the Council will respond on relevant matters.
- 1.6 During the course of the DCO process until submission, Officers have a number of key workstreams. This will include, but is not limited to:
- Attend topic working groups and subgroups;
 - Engage with public consultation in relation to new highway design proposals and other relevant engagement;
 - Joint-working with neighbouring authorities throughout the DCO process including regular meetings with Chief Executives, Gatwick Officers Group (GOG), Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee (GATCOM) etc.;
 - Commission specialist advice both independently and in partnership with neighbouring authorities, where relevant;
 - Open and regular communications for elected Members and the community through social media, newsletters etc.;
 - Working with and facilitating GMOG and internal project officer groups.

- 1.7 Once the DCO is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, Officers from host and neighbouring authorities will be working to complete required documents as part of the examination process. This will include an Adequacy of Consultation Response, Local Impact Assessment, Statement of Common Ground updates and amendments and responding to Inspector questions and attending hearing sessions.

FASI South Airspace Change Proposal

- 2.1 The Gatwick FASI South Airspace Change Proposal follows the regulatory process for changes to the airspace design, CAP1616. To provide context, the Aviation Minister wrote to all major London airports seeking their commitment to a programme of airspace modernisation covering the South of England – called the FASI-South programme.
- 2.2 Along with 17 other airports, Gatwick Airport is engaged in this process which will involve the re-design of its departure and arrival routes and procedures up to 7000 feet. The National Air Traffic Service (NATS) have been commissioned by the Government to manage the airspace change for the South of England over 7000 feet.
- 2.3 Officers and key stakeholders were invited to engagement workshops (February 2022) where an update on Stage 2 of the process was provided. GAL sought a response from stakeholder on the presentation and this was circulated to GMOG members. A response was subsequently completed and submitted by officers in accordance with the deadlines set by GAL.

Gatwick Airspace Route 4 Option 7 Design Change

- 3.1 Route 4 is a departure route for aircraft taking off from Gatwick towards the west. Soon after take-off, aircraft wrap 180 degrees round to the right and head east, over the District, as depicted in the map below:



- 3.2 Gatwick, and all other airports, have or are in the process of redesigning their departure routes to be in line with UK policy so that aircraft can use new satellite-based navigation technology. Seven new options are being considered however, a new design option 7 has been developed by GAL.

- 3.3 Officers attended an engagement workshop (February 2022) on the new option 7 design route for the Route 4 airspace change options. GAL sought a response from stakeholders on the presentation and proposed new option 7 design route. This was circulated to GMOG and subsequently a response was submitted to GAL in accordance with their deadline.

Gatwick Noise Land-Use Planning

- 4.1 Officers were invited to respond to a questionnaire from GAL regarding the way aircraft noise from Gatwick operations is considered in planning applications for noise sensitive developments. This includes housing in areas under flightpaths that are affected by aircraft noise, schools, hospitals etc.
- 4.2 The questionnaire was submitted to 10 Local Planning Authorities responsible for land use planning in areas under Gatwick Airport's flightpaths and concentrates on the Development Management process for applications of this nature.
- 4.3 Due to the deadline for this questionnaire to be completed and submitted immediately after the elections, a preliminary response was completed by officers and sent to GAL. Officers will circulate the preliminary response and ask for comments from GMOG subject to recommendation C of this report.

Governance Arrangements

- 5.1 It was resolved at this Committee on 23 September 2021 that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and / or the Chief Planning Officer in consultation with a Working Group of Members (GMOG), the membership of which to be nominated by Group Leaders, to respond to future consultations and other forms of engagement from relevant stakeholders at various stages of the DCO process.
- 5.2 GMOG was subsequently established (Councillors Botten, Flower, Gillman, Lockwood and Moore) and terms of reference drawn up and circulated and agreed. Discussions and correspondence has thus far, assisted Officers to prepare responses which reflect the view of the Council and for the wider communities of the District with the valuable input of elected Members and at a pace which can better meet the swiftness at which GAL are progressing their DCO and other workstreams.
- 5.3 It is therefore, recommended that this working group and existing terms of reference be retained subject to consultation with Group Leaders being replaced with the Chair and Vice Chair.

Consultation

- 6.1 As mentioned above, GAL are proposing a six week public consultation in relation to new highway design proposals. This will take place between Tuesday 14 June 2022 and Wednesday 27 July 2022. Technical advice and comments will be sought from Surrey County Council predominantly as the Highways Authority for Tandridge, although the Council will respond on relevant matters.

6.2 The Council will also respond to any further consultations and attend relevant meetings convened by GAL on other workstreams such as FASI South Airspace Change Proposals, Route 4 Option 7 Design Change Proposals and Gatwick Land-Use Planning.

Key implications

Comments of the Chief Finance Officer

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, it is likely that there will be costs attached to working with partners to engage with the GAL proposals. Any activity must have cost implications considered, particularly where these cannot be delivered within existing budget envelopes. The impact of any additional cost pressures will be shown in the monthly budget monitoring reports along with mitigating actions.

Comments of the Head of Legal Services

As a statutory consultee in the DCO process, the Council has specific responsibilities as a 'host' authority, including submitting written representations and participating in the process. The recommendations in this report seek to ensure that the Council delivers its responsibilities for the current and remaining stages. The delegation is therefore needed because the DCO process has a tight set legislative timeframe to work within.

Equality

There are no equalities implications as a result of this report.

Climate change

The implications of increased air traffic from Gatwick does have environmental implications. This is one of the main concerns for the Council and residents and will be an area where the Council will be vigilant in its responses. However, for this report, which is focused on providing elected Members with an update and on the governance arrangements in the DCO process, there are no direct climate change implications.

Appendices

None

Background papers

None

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