

LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT

Minutes of meeting No. 111 of the Consultative Committee held on Tuesday 15 March 2022 at 2pm at Southend Airport

Present: David Osborn	Chairperson
Murray Foster	Deputy Chairperson
Glyn Jones (GJ)	CEO, LSA
Marc Taylor (MT)	Operations Director, LSA
Jo Marchetti (JM)	Corporate and Social Responsibility (CSR) Manager, LSA
Nicole Park	Head of Air Traffic Services, LSA
Councillor Mumford	Castle Point Borough Council
Councillor Mike Steptoe	Essex County Council
Zhanine Smith (Officer)	Essex County Council
Mike Davies	Independent Representative
Ray Howard, MBE	Independent Representative
Councillor Ian Ward	Rochford District Council
Councillor Simon Wootton	Rochford District Council
Councillor Daniel Cowan	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Councillor Keith Evans	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Councillor Carole Mulroney	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Adrian Smith (Officer)	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Kevin Waters (Officer)	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Kim Paxman	Essex Chambers of Commerce
Christine Bhatt	Essex Chambers of Commerce
Les Sawyer	Residents Association (West Leigh)
Ron Smithson	Southend Flying Clubs
Emma McDonnell (EM)	Secretary (Minutes)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Glenn Stoneman (Border Force), Councillors May, Reeves, Cunningham, O'Boyle, and Terry, together with Paula Chapman (Officer), Ian Butt (Officer) and Andrew Paddon (Officer).

2. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND WELCOME

- 2.1 The Chairperson welcomed attendees and members/guests introduced themselves.
- 2.2 GJ advised that there had been some recent changes to the airport's management team. Finance Director, Rick Jackson, is leaving the business after approaching 27 years of service for personal reasons, and will be replaced by Phil Grewock, who has previously worked for London Stansted Airport. The airport will also be welcoming Nigel Mayes as new Business Development Director who has over 25 years industry experience. Willie McGillivray, the previous COO, has left aviation for a new career path in construction and will be replaced by Marc Taylor, who has worked at the airport for almost 24 years. Caroline Fitzgerald has worked at the airport for almost five years and will step into the role of Commercial and Customer Service Director.
- 2.3 The Chairperson reminded members of confidentiality until the minutes are published in draft on LSA's website, the process of which will continue in a speedy manner.

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 3.1 The Chairperson reminded members to declare any conflicts of interest at each quarterly meeting.

4. FASI ACP (FUTURE AIRSPACE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION) (AIRSPACE CHANGE PROPOSAL)

- 4.1 Nicole Park reported that LSA is now in Stage 2 of the seven-stage process, which is to ‘Develop and Assess’ the Design Principles in Stage 1. An email was sent in February to all LSACC members, in addition to stakeholders and other parties, inviting them to participate in the Stage 2 workshop on Friday 8 April. Members are encouraged to attend to assist with the process.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING 18 NOVEMBER 2021

- 5.1 The minutes were formally adopted and can be uploaded in final form on to the LSA website. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 6.1 The Chairperson commented that no feedback had been received from SAVS (Southend Association of Voluntary Services) in relation to potential candidates for the remaining vacant ‘Independent Representative’ position, although an application had been submitted from a member of the public.
- 6.2 It was agreed to readvertise the position on the airport’s website. EM to forward the draft advert to the sub-committee for review prior to publishing. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**
- 6.3 The sub-committee to then consider any applications and put forward nominations to the LSACC at the next meeting. **Sub-cttee 25/05/22.**
- 6.4 The Deputy Chairperson confirmed that he will continue to seek a willing participant from the Southend Business Partnership meetings to fill the ‘Southend Business Partnership’ vacancy on the LSACC and will update members accordingly. **Remove from minutes.**
- 6.5 GJ advised that LSA has instructed Bickerdike Allen Partners to proceed with the 2021 R4 noise mapping process as required by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), for the purposes of continuity and comparability. The data will contribute to the development of the 2023 Noise Action Plan, however it will also consider pre-pandemic operation levels. **Remove from minutes.**
- 6.6 The Chairperson advised that Councillor O’Boyle had forwarded a ‘link’ to the public petition in relation to stopping night flights at the airport, which was last updated two years ago. The Chairperson commented that it wasn’t a physical petition submitted to Rochford District Council, which had caused the confusion. However, if any LSACC member required access to the petition, then they should request this from EM. **Remove from minutes.**

7. DFT INFORMATION GATHERING EXERCISE WITH ACCS AND SIMILAR ORGANISATIONS

- 7.1 This exercise is to share views with the DfT on the challenges faced by ACCs, with the DfT’s objective being to encourage better working between airports and their ACC’s, and to ensure airport stakeholders and communities have an effective voice in airport-related matters that affect them. The Chairperson commented that following the invitation sent by the secretary, no LSACC members participated which was disappointing. However, he went on to advise that the consultation document had been completed by the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary.

8. SURFACE IMPACT ACCESS ROUTES

- 8.1 JM reported that the Annual Transport Forum was held in February, which the Deputy Chairperson attended. Discussions were focussed on preparations for the return to the airport of passengers and employees, including demand and possibly increasing services (trains and buses) if needed. JM commented it was a positive meeting, promoting sustainable transport, and although c2c did not attend on this occasion, they will reengage as passenger volumes increase.

9. CEO REPORT

- 9.1 The Committee reviewed the report prepared by GJ, covering the period November 2021 to January 2022. This report is published separately on the LSA website and should be read in conjunction with comments/questions below. No questions were submitted in advance of the meeting from members.

- 9.2 Questions raised during the meeting:

9.2.1 Councillor Ward enquired whether operationally the airport will be ready for May, to which MT confirmed yes. All new recruits are local individuals and security staff have to ‘train on the job’ so have been loaned to London Stansted.

9.2.2 Adrian Smith asked whether drones and other forms of innovative transport would become a reality operationally, to which GJ advised that this area was currently extremely underdeveloped.

LSA event on 3 March 2022 to discuss sustainable energy solutions in Southend

9.2.3 GJ updated the meeting following the LSA event on 3 March 2022 to discuss sustainable energy solutions in Southend. The forum was held to discuss the benefits that a joined-up approach to sustainable fuels could bring to businesses in the region. Guest speakers, Ian Lewis, Executive Director at the Thames Estuary Growth Board, Arnab Chatterjee Vice President, Infrastructure of Zeroavia and Helena Anderson, Co-Founder and COO, Ikigai Capital, attended and explained the opportunities for sustainable fuels such as hydrogen in the region and how their application could allow local businesses to collaborate in making greener, more sustainable choices.

9.2.4 GJ asked councillors for their support in relation to the opportunity to establish a hydrogen fuel hub in the City of Southend and Rochford that would attract investment, new industries, jobs, skills and growth to the local area, which could change the dial on the environmental front. LSA aims to engage in this process to further explore how it can work together with local authorities and businesses (longer term) supporting the journey to Net Zero, whilst understanding the role that LSA can play as an airport, energy user and major local employer.

9.2.5 Councillor Mulroney, Councillor Mumford and Ray Howard commented how interesting and educational the forum was and will ensure all their council members are updated on the discussions.

9.2.6 Zhanine Smith advised that as the UK Airspace Modernisation Strategy (FASI) is out for consultation, LSA and council officers should liaise closely to ensure a united response is fed back in this respect.

9.2.7 Councillor Mulroney asked whether LSA expect the number of cargo flights to increase as there are only 6 per week, to which MT explained that this is the current position.

9.2.8 Zhanine Smith suggested that perhaps the airport could follow other airports in that when passenger flights return to LSA, they could set ‘temporary’ parameters (Noise Preferential Routes) with safety obviously being paramount, to allow pilots to familiarise themselves again before fines are issued for any breaches.

9.2.9 Councillor Cowan asked why recently smaller planes, at approximately 9pm, were flying repeatedly over Rochford and then the Blenheim area. JM confirmed that it was circuit training which has to be permitted but LSA endeavours to minimise training over populated areas and a booking process is in place. Councillor Evans stated that their movements were probably more noticeable as people are still working from home.

9.2.10 It was agreed that Nicole Park would share with LSACC members the presentation given at the recent Noise Forum in relation to light aircraft training. **NP 18/03/22.**

10. PRESS PACK

10.1 It was agreed that as Press Releases are emailed to members by the secretary, and in consideration of the environment, there was no longer a requirement to print the press pack for each meeting and therefore this element will be removed from future agendas. **All to note.**

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 EM to update the members’ list for publication for those members who represent Southend-on-Sea ‘City’ Council. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

11.2 The Chairperson updated members that a further communication had been received from Mr Smith in relation to his request that the airport ceases with night flights. With regard to Mr Smith’s comment enquiring why the 18 November 2021 minutes are still in ‘DRAFT’ on LSA’s website, as the Constitution details, these will be on the airport’s website in ‘DRAFT’ format until they are formally adopted at the next 1/4ly meeting (i.e. today’s meeting in this instance), following which the airport will substitute the draft document on the website with the adopted version. **Remove from minutes.**

11.3 Following Councillor Cowen’s enquiry as to whether the airport is planning to do anything in terms of branding in relation to Southend-on-Sea receiving city status, GJ confirmed no action is being taken.

12. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next Committee meetings in 2022, starting at 2pm, are as follows:

Wednesday 25 May

Wednesday 14 September

Wednesday 23 November

The meeting ended at 3.15pm

Signed _____ Date: _____