

LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT

Minutes of meeting No. 114 of the Consultative Committee held on Tuesday 28 February 2023 at 2pm at Southend Airport

Present: David Osborn	Chairperson
Murray Foster	Deputy Chairperson
John Upton (JU)	CEO, LSA
Jo Marchetti (JM)	Corporate and Social Responsibility (CSR) Manager, LSA
Sam Petrie	Airport Development Co-ordinator, LSA
Councillor Tom Cunningham	Essex County Council
Councillor Jill Reeves	Essex County Council
Councillor Mike Steptoe	Essex County Council
Zhanine Smith (Officer)	Essex County Council
Mike Davies	Independent Representative
Ray Howard, MBE	Independent Representative
Councillor Anita Forde	Leigh Town Council
Councillor Ian Ward	Rochford District Council
Councillor Simon Wootton	Rochford District Council
Philip Drane (Officer)	Rochford District Council
Councillor Daniel Cowan	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Adrian Smith (Officer)	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Paul Wilkins	Rochford Board of Trade
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 Councillors Mulroney, Hyde, Fuller and Williams.

2. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND WELCOME

- 2.1 The Chairperson welcomed attendees and reminded everyone 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. APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

- 4.1 The Chairperson advised that he had been in position for three years and in accordance with the Constitution, it was for members to decide whether he should continue in the role for a further three years. The Chairperson confirmed he would be happy to continue in the position - at this point he left the discussions.
- 4.2 Councillor Cowan commented that the Chairperson had made a real positive contribution to the committee in creating an ACC which is there for its stated purpose, together with bringing on board more independent 'voices'.
- 4.3 The meeting was unanimous in their decision to reappoint D Osborn as the Chairperson with immediate effect.
- 4.4 Ray Howard moved the motion, and this was seconded by Councillor Ward.

4.5 The Chairperson re-joined the discussions, and the Committee thanked him for his continued involvement.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING 12 OCTOBER 2022

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 Applicants for vacant ‘Independent Representative’ position

6.1.1 The Chairperson commented that in relation to potential candidates for the remaining vacant ‘Independent Representative’ position, the sub-committee had met with three applicants, two of whom had attended the last LSACC meeting as ‘observers’ to get a feel for the proceedings. Due to work commitments, the third candidate would attend the May meeting. Once this process is complete, the sub-committee will put forward a nomination to the LSACC for approval. **Action: DO 13/09/23.**

6.2 Annual review of the process in place to manage flights departing outside the NPRs

Compliance with Section 106 Agreement

6.2.1 Further to the annual review in May 2022 of the processes in place in relation to managing flights which depart outside the Noise Preferential Routes (NPRs), Z Smith confirmed that after asking twice, no feedback had been received from the Strategic Aviation Specialist Interest Group (SASIG). Z Smith reported that London Stansted follows a similar process as adopted by LSA where education is key and persistent offenders are fined.

6.2.2 JM gave a presentation showing the effectiveness of the current process and proposed that it continues for the following reasons:

- Jet Centre activity is increasing and makes a material contribution to the Airport. Most pilots using the Jet Centre are not based at LSA and will be using LSA for the first time.
- Issuing fines without initial engagement and education on NPRs may discourage Jet Centre customers from returning to LSA.
- Some aircraft business jets that use LSA require manual instruction to follow the NPRs as opposed to the larger passenger jets that can be pre-programmed to follow NPRs.
- The percentage of aircraft breaching the NPR is less than 0.2% since 2012.

6.2.3 Following detailed discussions, the meeting was unanimous in wishing to continue with the current process (infringement notices issued for 1st and 2nd offences, with a £500 fine for a 3rd offence) for another year. **Transfer Points Forward Diary May 2024.**

6.2.4 The Chairperson expressed appreciation to JM for a comprehensive and insightful presentation.

6.3 Concentration levels of NO₂ measured around the Airport and the recorded annual mean values for each testing site being amended by the relevant bias adjustment factor following DEFRA guidance

6.3.1 Councillor Hyde was unable to attend the meeting, however, JM was able to explain that DEFRA collect NO₂ results from numerous sites across the UK and issue an adjustment factor annually in March based on UK reporting variations. All reporting sites calculate an annual mean NO₂ result using a bias adjustment from a DEFRA spreadsheet and filter by diffusion tube type, method and local authority.

6.3.2 Councillor Hyde had been led to believe that the Airport was using the wrong filter for the bias adjustment, however, JM has since confirmed to her that the Airport has been using the ‘50% tea in acetone’ filter since 2015, which is the correct method. JM has followed this up directly with the SCC environmental team who have also confirmed the Airport is using the correct reporting method. **Remove from minutes.**

7. POINTS FORWARD DIARY

7.1 Review of ‘Community Meeting’

7.1.1 Following the disappointing attendance of 8 members of the public at the previous meeting and that there is now a Noise Forum, it was agreed that this negates the need for another Community Meeting at this moment in time.

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

8.1 Sam Petrie commented that LSA is a stakeholder in the development of the wider UK Airspace Modernisation Strategy that is sponsored by the Department for Transport and has been developed by the CAA. This will see a once in a lifetime opportunity to modernise airspace, in particular in the SE region of the UK, that has not had any significant changes for the last 50 years. LSA has filed an Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) to support this strategy.

8.2 Following the submission of the Stage 2a and 2b documentation, the CAA has completed the Develop and Assess Gateway Assessment and is not satisfied that the change sponsor (LSA) has met the requirements of the process up to this point. The CAA has not approved progress to the next step. LSA will be resubmitting the revised documentation in the September 2023 gateway. Once LSA has resubmitted the documentation and successfully passed through the gateway, work will begin on Stage 3 ‘Consult’. There are 4 parts to Stage 3:

1. Stage 3A: Consultation Preparation
2. Stage 3B: Consultation Approval > Gateway
3. Stage 3C: Commence Consultation
4. Stage 3D: Collate and Review Responses

8.3 Sam Petrie emphasised that currently there is no need to re-engage with stakeholders, but they will be kept fully informed on progress.

9. CEO REPORT

9.1 The Committee reviewed the report covering the period November 2022 to January 2023. 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 JU commented that it would be taken as ‘read’ and summarised a couple of specific points:

9.2.1 The Airport is currently recruiting for 25 positions (10% of staffing numbers).

9.2.2 LSA welcomes ACC’s views and options to further build and amplify the public, business and wider stakeholder awareness of the Airport beyond the immediate area.

9.2.3 New LSA website coming ‘live’ soon which will be more user-friendly, provide essential information and an easier platform on mobile.

- 9.2.4 First EV charging point scheduled to be installed in Jet Centre car park during February.
- 9.2.5 During the quieter period, the Airport is continuing to minimise energy consumption wherever possible to mitigate the significant electricity price inflation challenge. By way of interest, the solar farm has enabled LSA to offset the same amount of CO2 as planting > 40,000,000 trees.
- 9.3 Questions raised during the meeting:
- 9.3.1 Councillor Ward suggested that the Airport looks at possibly installing roofing for parking, with the objective of solar panels being used, and perhaps additional EV charging points.
- 9.3.2 Councillor Cowan enquired how many free parking spaces at the Airport were used for the recent ‘Southend LuminoCity Festival of Light’ event. JU confirmed zero.
- 9.3.3 JM confirmed that there is a technical ‘safeguarding’ process in place whereby any planning application for structures above a specific height/distance to the Airport is referred to the Airport for consultation. This would include 5G masts.
- 9.3.4 JM reported that in relation to the ‘Music & Beer Festival’ at the Vulcan on 4 & 5 August 2023 (14:00-22:30), the event is being organised by the Vulcan Restoration Trust. Councillor Cowan expressed concerns in relation to traffic and waste management etc, stating that he wanted to see the festival properly managed. It was agreed that JM would invite a member from the restoration trust to attend the next ACC meeting to talk about the event, answer any questions and provide information about the Vulcan and the trust’s objectives. **Action: JM 24/05/23**
- 9.3.5 In relation to noise complaints, JM stated there was a 79% decrease on the previous quarter, mainly due to the decrease in night-time cargo movements, which ceased on 12 September. A new temporary cargo contract is running Jan – Mar 2023 but with only 3 night flights a week. Some other night flights continued with based executive jet customers and the HM Coastguard, who patrol the channel for illegal crossings at night.
- 9.3.6 Having established the LSA Community Noise Forum over a year ago, and listened to feedback from local residents, there will now be a review of the existing Terms of Reference (ToR) to see how membership and communication with the local residents can be improved. The current Chairperson has resigned and the vacancy for an independent Chairperson will be advertised via LinkedIn.
- 9.3.7 Following discussions with the Wells Avenue residents and Noise Forum, the Airport hired an electric ground power unit to mitigate noise from the loading/unloading of cargo aircraft over the north side of the Airport. JU confirmed this will be a permanent feature if needed.
- 9.3.8 JM advised that the ‘Passengers with Reduced Mobility’ (PRM) forum had been resurrected and the first meeting will take place on 29 March. Following discussions, it was agreed that Les Sawyer would sit on this committee and feedback comments to the ACC at the next meeting. **Action: Les Sawyer 24/05/23.**
- 9.3.9 JM to send Les Sawyer the relevant invitation. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

9.3.10 Zhanine Smith commented that the PRM may wish to consider food allergies, e.g. nuts, strawberries etc. Additionally, ‘Natasha’s Law’, which came into force in October 2021, is there to protect people with food allergies who rely on the transparency of ingredients and food labelling for prepacked foods. LSA willing to affiliate with ‘Natasha’s Law’ would reassure travellers, in particular those flying with children.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 None reported.

11. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 24 May

Wednesday 13 September

Wednesday 22 November

The meeting ended at 3.45pm

Signed _____ Date: _____