

LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT

Minutes of meeting No. 116 of the Consultative Committee held on Wednesday 13 September 2023 at 2pm at Southend Airport

Present: David Osborn	Chairperson
Murray Foster	Deputy Chairperson
Marc Taylor	Operations Director, LSA
Caroline Fitzgerald	Commercial Director, LSA
Jo Marchetti	Corporate and Social Responsibility (CSR) Manager, LSA
Nicole Park	Head of Air Traffic Services, LSA
Mike Davies	Independent Representative
Ray Howard, MBE	Independent Representative
Councillor Michael Fuller	Castle Point Borough Council
Councillor Tom Cunningham	Essex County Council
Councillor Jill Reeves	Essex County Council
Zhanine Smith (Officer)	Essex County Council
Councillor Mark Flewitt	Leigh Town Council
Councillor James Gooding	Rochford District Council
Councillor Simon Wootton	Rochford District Council
Councillor Kevin Buck	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Councillor Robert McMullan	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Marshall Mhiribidi (Officer)	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Adrian Smith (Officer)	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Paul Wilkins	Rochford Board of Trade
Ron Smithson	Southend Flying Clubs
Emma McDonnell	Secretary (Minutes)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from John Upton, Kevin Waters, Les Sawyer, and Councillors Wakefield and Steptoe – Councillor Steptoe did, however, attend the last few minutes of the discussions.
- 1.2 Councillor Wootton emphasised that all members should follow the correct process if they are unable to attend a LSACC meeting, ie send apologies to the Secretary prior to the meeting and advise if their elected substitute will be attending in their absence. **All to note.**

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.
- 2.2 The Chairperson asked all attendees to introduce themselves for the benefit of new members.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 The Chairperson confirmed that the sub-committee had met with candidates, and the nominee for the single vacant Independent Representative position was Lana Balmer. The meeting was unanimous and approved Lana becoming a member of the LSACC. E McDonnell to write to Lana to advise her accordingly. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

- 3.2 M Foster advised that he has made an approach to an individual who is a member of the Southend Business Partnership Executive, to establish if they would like to become a member of the LSACC. If a positive response is received, Murray Foster will, in the first instance, invite the individual to attend a future meeting as a guest. **Action: MF 22/11/23**

4. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 4.1 The Chairperson reminded members to declare any conflicts of interest at each quarterly meeting.
- 4.2 Councillor McMullan declared that he holds a PPL and is a member of Seawing Flying Club.

5. LOGIKA RE NOISE ACTION PLAN FIVE-YEARLY REVIEW

- 5.1 Jo Marchetti advised that, in accordance with Defra, the Airport must review its Noise Action Plan (NAP) every five years. Having commissioned a noise consultant, Logika, they met with LSACC members on 17 July at an Extraordinary meeting, and the Community Noise Forum (CNF) on 15 August, to obtain their comments and have subsequently issued a final NAP to Defra. LSA is now awaiting feedback from Defra and once approved (expected by February 2024), the NAP will be published on the Airport's website.

6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING 24 MAY 2023

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

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 7.1 None.

8. POINTS FORWARD DIARY

- 8.1 None.

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

- 9.1 Nicole Park reiterated for new members 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.
- 9.2 LSA has moved the resubmission of Stage 2 to the December 2023 Gateway. This is due to LSA's decision to complete some further engagement related to additional design options.
- 9.3 N Park confirmed that an email was sent to LSACC members on 7 September from the LSACC Secretary attaching a presentation detailing two additional swathes. For ease of reference, the link below can be used to either book onto the Airport's feedback session at 10:00 on Tuesday 26 September, or provide feedback and comments on the two additional swathes and associated Design Principle Evaluation (DPE) Assessment:

<https://forms.office.com/e/t729PS5LNX>

- 9.4 N Park advised that the engagement runs until 17:00 on Friday 6 October.
- 9.5 Implementation is targeted for 2030/2032.
- 9.6 In relation to a question asked by Ray Howard, N Park commented that three airports share the same airspace (London City, Biggin Hill and Southend) and due to current capacity at LSA, some aircraft are 'short-cutting' over west of Canvey Island and then towards London, giving the impression the aircraft is close. N Park emphasised these manoeuvres are permitted and are in accordance with S106.
- 9.7 N Park advised that during the day, to avoid the danger complex over Shoebury when active, aircraft are required to turn left, however Councillor Fuller stated that at night, when the area is not active, aircraft are still turning left and not right. N Park to investigate and report back to the LSACC accordingly. **Action: NP 20/09/23.**
- 9.8 Councillor Buck stressed that as the Airport continues to grow to pre-pandemic levels and beyond, LSA needs to minimise noise at night as much as possible. J Marchetti reassured Councillor Buck that aircraft movements are controlled by S106, and data relating to noise complaints help the Airport to better understand which aircraft operations cause the most disturbance and ensure that the best available noise mitigation measures are in place.

10. CEO REPORT

- 10.1 The Committee reviewed the report covering the period May to July 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.
- 10.2 Caroline Fitzgerald commented that it would be taken as 'read' and summarised a couple of specific points:
- Growth is strong
 - A Winter flight schedule is in place
 - Primary focus is on passenger growth not cargo
 - The Vulcan event in August was incredibly positive with a high number of attendees, with no complaints. Extremely well managed by the Vulcan Trust
- 10.3 Questions/comments raised during the meeting:
- 10.3.1 In terms of flight only vs 'package holidays' bookings and the impact on the Airport, C Fitzgerald confirmed that there are no additional financial benefits for the Airport. Tour operator margins are greater if passengers book a 'holiday', e.g. an easyJet package holiday as a whole is worth more to the airline tour operator being in this case 'easyJet holidays' vs a flight only booking.
- 10.3.2 Flight diversions into LSA are managed on a case-by-case basis, with the Airport's preference being to provide a full passenger experience and so will do its very best to manage what is most commercially viable. It should be noted that the support and availability of UKBF is crucial for all diversions.

- 10.3.3 J Marchetti confirmed that the next 'Passengers with Reduced Mobility' (PRM) forum is scheduled for Tuesday 31 October. Once passenger numbers reach 150,000 per annum, LSA will be regulated and audited by the CAA. **Action: L Sawyer to note.**
- 10.3.4 There is a comprehensive suite of policies that sit under the S106 agreement. LSA is engaging with Southend-on-Sea City Council, Rochford District Council and Essex County Council to review these individual documents. At the appropriate time, LSA will share the draft documentation with members of the LSACC for comment.
- 10.3.5 Councillor Wootton, supported by Councillor Gooding, stressed that as councillors they have a role to play to manage what are genuine issues in relation to noise and need to be robust and considerate when dealing with such concerns. Councillor Wootton stated that the Airport brings so much to the local economy and the silent majority of residents are extremely supportive of the Airport.
- 10.3.6 C Fitzgerald confirmed that the Airport always listens to complaints, it recognises the impact on its closest neighbours and wants to be a good neighbour, which will continue.
- 10.3.7 In response to Councillor McMullan's question as to whether LSA is looking for further freight operations, C Fitzgerald reiterated that whilst the Airport's main focus remains on passenger growth, it has immediate capacity for a logistics operation and that such business would be helpful as the Airport recovers and grows.
- 10.3.8 Councillor Fuller commented that there is a lot of green space, to which Marc Taylor advised LSA is committed to minimising its impact on the environment, protecting air quality, and delivering social benefits to the community around it.
- 10.3.9 M Taylor confirmed that there are no issues at LSA concerning Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC).

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 The Chairperson commented that following the DfT's information gathering exercise of ACCs, UKACCs has reflected on the results, and advised ACCs where they can improve on transparency of their existence, work and to build trust with wider communities. The Chairperson confirmed that LSACC met all the principal areas, with the exception of publishing its agenda on LSA's website and a calendar of its meetings. The meeting was unanimous in allowing such information to be published on the website.

12. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 22 November

The meeting ended at 15:25

Signed _____ Date: _____