

LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT

Minutes of meeting No. 118 of the Consultative Committee held on Tuesday 27 February 2024 at 2pm at Southend Airport

Present: David Osborn	Chairperson
Murray Foster	Deputy Chairperson
John Upton	CEO, 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 Jill Reeves	Essex County Council
Councillor Mike Steptoe	Essex County Council
Zhanine Smith (Officer)	Essex County Council
Councillor Mark Flewitt	Leigh Town Council
Councillor Doug O Bown	Maldon District Council
Councillor Julie Gooding	Rochford District Council
Councillor Michael Hoy	Rochford District Council
Councillor Simon Wootton	Rochford District Council
Councillor David Garston	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Councillor Robert McMullan	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Councillor Steven Wakefield	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Marshall Mhiribidi (Officer)	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Les Sawyer	Residents Assoc (West Leigh)
Iain McNab	Essex Chambers of Commerce
Ron Smithson	Southend Flying Clubs
Emma McDonnell	Secretary (Minutes)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Paul Wilkins, Rochford Board of Trade, Lana Balmer, Independent Representative, Councillor Lee Scott, Councillor James Gooding and Councillor Kevin Buck.

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 John Upton joined the meeting remotely via 'Teams'.
- 2.3 The Chairperson asked all attendees to introduce themselves for the benefit of new members.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 The meeting welcomed Iain McNab from Essex Chambers of Commerce.

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 and Councillor Flewitt declared that his husband is a Southend City Councillor.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING 22 NOVEMBER 2023

- 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 None.

7. POINTS FORWARD DIARY

- 7.1 None.

8. CEO REPORT

- 8.1 The Committee reviewed the report covering the period November 2023 to January 2024. 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.

- 8.2 The Chairperson commented that it would be taken as 'read' and John Upton summarised a couple of principal points:

Recapitalisation

- 8.2.1 Global investment firms Carlyle (NASDAQ: CG) and Cyrus Capital Partners, key financial stakeholders of London Southend Airport, have agreed to recapitalise the Airport which, once completed, will provide up to £32m of new funding. Carlyle and Cyrus both have extensive experience across the aviation industry and deep knowledge of LSA and their commitment to the Airport's future, delivers both certainty and stability and will enable the Airport to accelerate its growth plans with their considerable investment capability and operational expertise.

- 8.2.2 John explained that the process should be complete in 2-3 months' time and is looking forward to a busy summer period. He went on to explain, in response to a couple of questions, that existing Airport staff will continue on existing terms and conditions and that plans around the S106 are focussed on the five-year review.

Aeroitalia

- 8.2.3 For a variety of factors, and with the Airport's support, Aeroitalia has chosen to focus on their domestic and other routes for the time being. This move enables LSA to focus their efforts on ensuring the continued success of easyJet, Balkan and others this summer and beyond. Accordingly, Milan remains firmly in LSA's plans.

- 8.2.4 Looking to the future, the Airport is continuing to double its traffic year-on-year thanks to the collective efforts of the entire Airport team. With its destinations growing rapidly from three to eleven over the past year alone, and the exciting news of the arrival of Carlyle Group and Cyrus Capital partners, LSA is now poised to accelerate its growth plans this year and beyond.

8.3 The following questions/comments were raised during the meeting:

8.3.1 John stated that the Jet Centre year-on-year is behind on revenue, with reduced operating hours overnight which has had an impact on flights/revenue from the USA. For the forthcoming year, John expects the Jet Centre to return to positive growth.

[John left the ACC meeting].

8.3.2 In response to Les Sawyer's remarks about the negative press concerning Wizz Air, Caroline Fitzgerald reassured members that they are one of the largest airlines in Europe and LSA is regularly engaging with a variety of airlines. If the Airport was to move forward with any particular airline, LSA would ensure customer expectations were at the forefront of any relationship.

8.3.3 The plans of a new hotel have been approved, and it was agreed that Caroline would update members separately on this specific issue. **Action: CF 08/03/24.**

8.3.4 In response to whether Carlye and Cyrus will be involved in the Airport in addition to the current operational support, Caroline confirmed that the existing management team will continue to run the business and will keep the ACC updated as the Airport moves forward.

8.3.5 Councillor Hoy to forward relevant information to Caroline and Jo in relation to apprenticeships for young people with EHCP/SEND as the employer receives enhanced funding. **Action: Cllr Hoy 08/03/24.**

8.3.6 In relation to the 'Travel Show' held in January at the Holiday Inn, Caroline advised that the Airport is hoping to make it an annual event, maybe twice a year in the future, to cater for summer and winter destinations.

8.3.7 Jo Marchetti advised that Air Cadets will be visiting the Airport on 5 March and an ATC apprenticeship open day is also being planned.

8.3.8 With regard to noise, Councillor Mc McMullan asked if any of the complaints were from new complainants, to which Jo confirmed they were not, and went on to say that complaints related predominantly to light aircraft.

8.3.9 It was appreciated that noise complaints for the period remained low, and as in previous years, it was agreed that the Draft Annual Report will detail the number of complaints and households as this provides better context. **Action: JM to note.**

8.3.10 The hanger space on the north side of the Airport remains vacant and can be leased to another cargo airline at some point in the future.

8.3.11 The draft Noise Action Plan was submitted to DEFRA on 31 October 2023 after consultation with the ACC and Noise Forum. Three comments were received, and it is now with Logika (consultants) and will be shared with the ACC again before resubmitting.

S106 Operational Controls

- 8.4 LSA has commissioned Logika Group to support the five-year review process and are currently working with SCC and RDC to review six action plans pursuant to the S106 Planning Agreement 2012 (Deed of Variation). The plans under review are:
- Carbon and Environmental Management Programme
 - Aircraft Engine Testing Best Practice Plan
 - Quiet Ground Operations Scheme
 - Air Quality Monitoring Programme
 - Wake Vortex Compensation Scheme
 - Sustainable Procurement Policy
- 8.5 To be clear, the S106 agreement (Deed of Variation) 2012 itself, is not being reviewed or amended. Accordingly, the review areas are restricted to those areas above and specifically do not include areas such as night flights, current movement quotas, ATMs etc. See also 8.9 below.
- 8.6 The requirement to review the six action plans is identified within the existing planning permission. Therefore, all action plans under review relate to existing approved growth and, again for clarity, they do not relate to additional growth at the Airport.
- 8.7 Previous versions of the action plans and other strategies (e.g. the reviews of the Airport Surface Access Strategy) have not been subject to public consultation, only subject to review by established fora. Although LSA is not obligated by the S106 to consult publicly on the five yearly reviews, the Airport intends to consult through sharing the draft plans (once agreed with RDC and SCC) with the ACC and Noise Forum (as representative bodies including a range of stakeholders and residents in the local community) for further comments and consideration.
- 8.8 Progress to date:
- Meetings held with LSA consultants Logika to agree a first draft of each plan.
 - Meetings held with SCC and RDC to agree process of review.
 - SCC has appointed a specialised consultant RSK to review the plans – currently awaiting feedback.
 - LSA/Logika will review feedback from RSK then review each plan with the relevant officers from each authority.
 - Once LSA and local authorities agree, the draft plans will be shared with ACC and the Noise Forum for feedback.
 - Final drafts will be submitted to SCC as required by the S106 (circa May 2024).
 - LSA will not be carrying out a public consultation, but SCC may wish to.
- 8.9 It should be noted that the action plans do not relate to controlling / managing air noise, changing the current controls on night flights or overall aircraft operations.
- 8.10 Councillor Garston declared a conflict of interest as he is in SCC Planning department and would therefore not be involved in any discussions during the ACC meeting relating to this specific issue.
- 8.11 **IMPORTANT ACTION:** members were asked to relay the above information with relevant colleagues, ward councillors and their constituents where necessary to avoid any ambiguity.
Action: All members.

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

- 9.1 Nicole Park advised that LSA had resubmitted the Stage 2 documentation on Friday 3 November 2023, and the reworked documents were assessed in the December 23 gateway. The Airport was informed on Friday 15 December that the CAA was not yet satisfied that the change sponsor had met the requirements of the ACP process and certain elements of LSA's methodology shared requires further work. The Airport has re-engaged with the consultant for resubmission in summer 2024 and will keep ACC members updated.
- 9.2 Following comments by Ray Howard, Nicole assured members that as ever, all safety aspects are regularly considered. LSA is actively participating with all London airports to go through safety analysis of various options.
- 9.3 Implementation of FACSI is expected 2030.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1 Jo Marchetti advised that the Draft Annual Report will be available for review at the next meeting.
- 10.2 Following a request from Ron Smithson, Jo Marchetti to provide an updated list of principal Airport contacts to members. **Action: JM 08/03/24.**
- 10.3 Due to the post-election period when roles are allocated at council meetings after the elections have taken place, it was agreed to change the date of the next ACC meeting – [this will now take place on Wednesday 12 June 2024 at 14:00 at the Holiday Inn Hotel](#). **All to note.**

11. DATES OF 2024 MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 12 June (please delete Wednesday 22 May from your diaries)
Wednesday 11 September
Wednesday 20 November

The meeting ended at 15:10

Signed _____ Date: _____