

## LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT

### Minutes of meeting No. 119 of the Consultative Committee held on Wednesday 12 June 2024 at 2pm at Southend Airport

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<b>Present:</b> David Osborn	Chairperson
Marc Taylor	Acting CEO, LSA
Jo Marchetti	Corporate and Social Responsibility (CSR) Manager, LSA
Nicole Park	Head of Air Traffic Services, LSA
Sam Petrie	Airport Development Co-ordinator, LSA
Lana Balmer	Independent Representative
Mike Davies	Independent Representative
Councillor Lee Scott	Essex County Council
Councillor Mike Steptoe	Essex County Council
Zhanine Smith (Officer)	Essex County Council
Councillor Andrew Cross	Rochford District Council
Councillor Stuart Wilson	Rochford District Council
Daniel Kudla (Officer)	Rochford District Council
Councillor Daniel Cowan	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Councillor Robert McMullan	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Councillor Jane Norman	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
Paul Wilkins	Rochford Board of Trade
Jacqui Dallimore	Southend Business Partnership
Ron Smithson	Southend Flying Clubs
Emma McDonnell	Secretary (Minutes)

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#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from the Deputy Chairperson, Ray Howard, Councillors Reeves, Fuller, Brown, Richardson, Wootton and Hoy.

#### 2. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

- 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 As it was 'pre-election' period, the Chairperson acknowledged that this was a 'heightened sensitivity' time and as was usual practice in this forum, there was to be no political comments made.

#### 3. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- 3.1 Due to recent local elections, there were a number of new members attending, therefore, the Chairperson asked everyone to introduce themselves. It was noted that Councillor Flewitt from Leigh Town Council had resigned.
- 3.2 The Secretary advised that Rochford District Council was holding their first committee meeting on 13 June, and will advise their LSACC members accordingly. RHALC has its AGM on 18 July and will advise representation following this meeting.

- 3.3 M Taylor wanted to express his personal appreciation to the former CEO, John Upton, for his unwavering support over recent months. John had cemented LSA as the sixth airport of London through the acquisition by Carlyle and securing easyJet having a base once more at Southend. The Chairperson had also written to John Upton thanking him for his contribution.

#### 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. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING 27 FEBRUARY 2024

- 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 M Taylor reported that regrettably, due to the delayed recovery from the pandemic, LSA is not in a position to proceed with a new hotel (planning permission expires August 2024). An application for planning will be submitted in the future as the business recovers. **Remove from minutes.**
- 6.2 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. **Revised action date due to purdah. Action: Cllr Hoy 11/09/24**
- 6.3 Following a request from Ron Smithson, S Petrie to forward an organisation chart to assist should any tenant issues arise. **Action: SP 21/06/24.**

#### 7. POINTS FORWARD DIARY

##### 7.1 Chapel at LSA

- 7.1.1 M Taylor advised that due to budget constraints, this is not likely to proceed in the near future. However, passengers of all faiths are welcome to use the 'Quiet' room and it was agreed that LSA would explore the option of having Chaplaincies offering pastoral care, confidential listening, support, guidance, and more to all who work at the Airport as well as those who travel through it. **Action: JM 11/09/24.**

##### 7.2 Annual review of the process in place to manage flights departing outside the NPRS

###### Compliance with Section 106 Agreement

- 7.2.1 The annual review of the processes in place in relation to managing flights which depart outside the Noise Preferential Routes (NPRs) was undertaken. Jo Marchetti explained the background to this process for new members and put forward the motion to retain the current structure in place to manage flights departing outside the NPRs.
- 7.2.2 J Marchetti confirmed that there were no noise complaints received in relation to the 7 infringements that had occurred during the 2023-2024 reporting period.

7.2.3 Members were unanimous in concluding this process was working well, ie infringement notices issued for 1st and 2nd offences, with a £500 fine for a 3rd offence. The Committee agreed that the current system was working adequately, is the right structure in going forward and that the process outlined above should be reviewed again, including the fine levels, in 12 months. **Transfer to Points Forward Diary May 2025.**

7.2.4 Les Sawyer stressed that any monies received by the Airport through 3rd offences are distributed to local charities.

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

8.1 S Petrie advised that 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 CAA has agreed to an October Gateway, which will be held on 31 October 2024 and LSA is required to submit documents by no later than 3 October 2024. S Petrie commented that they hope to submit paperwork end August/early September.

8.2 Work has already commenced on addressing the feedback given by the CAA and LSA plans to inform its stakeholders of the changes / updates during July. There will be an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback. LSA will also look to hold an Information Session during this period and will advise of the planned date in due course.

8.3 Implementation of FASCI is expected 2030.

## **9. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT**

9.1 The Draft Annual Report had previously been circulated to members electronically, requesting feedback by 12 June. J Marchetti summarised key data/information required by S106, commenting that the Employment section now includes data on 'Gender Pay Gap'. No feedback had been received in advance of the meeting, however, the following observations were made during the forum:

- i. To avoid ambiguity, where reference is made to 87% of staff being from the SS postcode area, this should be changed as not all SS codes fall within Southend City Council jurisdiction.
- ii. Page 5, number of complaints compared to number of ATMs is 1% - show how that compares to the previous year.
- iii. Page 6, the CEO's message will be updated accordingly.
- iv. Page 16, enhance text to make reference to the Elizabeth line as it provides greater access to all parts of London.
- v. Page 28/29, add breakdown of SS postcode areas for LSA colleagues.
- vi. Page 37, the colour coding will be amended in relation to total complaints and total ATMs and add data showing previous years ATMs/complaints.

- 9.2 As agreed last year with the ACC, the Annual Report will be distributed electronically (environmentally friendly) to key stakeholders, including LSACC members, local MPs, local authorities, Airport Transport Forum, Noise Forum, airport colleagues etc and will be available on the Airport's website.
- 9.3 M Steptoe to forward contact details of libraries and J Marchetti will ensure they receive a copy. **Action: MS 21/06/24.**
- 9.4 Councillor Cowan to email J Marchetti with his comments on the AR to ensure clarity. **Action: 14/06/24.**

## 10. REVIEW OF LSACC CONSTITUTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 10.1 The Chairperson confirmed that the Constitution and Terms of Reference follows the guidelines on ACCs issued by the DfT in 2014. In February 2022, the DfT launched an information gathering exercise, with the aim of 'providing government with a better understanding of the challenges faced and key objectives for ACCs to operate effectively', and in March 2023 produced a document of its findings, but there has been no update since.
- 10.2 The Chairperson commented that LSACC's Constitution is regularly cross-checked with other Constitutions of comparable ACCs in the country. He went on to say that the liaison group of UK Airport Consultative Committees (UKACCS), of which LSACC is a member, covers 24 airports, provides an opportunity to share experience and discuss matters of common interest. UKACCS is invited to contribute to the DfT's and CAA's policy and strategy development and in parallel to ensure that the ACC community has a concerted and coordinated voice at a variety of important and influential national fora and with stakeholder bodies.
- 10.3 LSACC's Constitution (reviewed in September 2022) was distributed to ACC members prior to the meeting for comment, and the following one amendment, proposed by the Chairperson, was agreed:

### *"11. LSACC Constitution*

*The LSACC Constitution will be published on the relevant section of the Airport website. Any proposed changes to the Constitution shall be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary at least thirty days before a scheduled meeting of the Committee is due. The Constitution and membership will be reviewed every two years (biennial) by either the full committee or a review sub-committee set-up by the Chairperson - if a sub-committee is formed, its recommendations will need to be approved by the full committee. Changes to the Constitution which are approved by a majority of the Committee present and voting shall be effective from the date of approval."*

- 10.4 The Secretary to make the changes to the document and arrange for the updated Constitution to be uploaded on to LSA's website. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**
- 10.5 In accordance with section 5.1 of the Constitution, the appointment of the Deputy Chairman and Independent Members (on this occasion Mike Davies), to be reviewed at the November meeting. **Transfer Points Forward Diary: 20/11/24.**

## 11. CEO REPORT

- 11.1 The Committee reviewed the report covering the period February to April 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.
- 11.2 The Chairperson commented that it would be taken as 'read' and Marc Taylor summarised some principal points:
- 11.2.1 LSA will continue to ensure it operates safely and securely, and with the Airport now set-up for success, there is a proven infrastructure, and he will utilise that as quickly and efficiently as possible.
  - 11.2.2 easyJet reopening its base at LSA in March 2025, with three A320neo aircraft (lower noise reduction with a 4.5 hour range) servicing new routes, is refreshing and the Airport is focused on exceeding easyJet's expectations.
  - 11.2.3 The Department for Transport (DfT) has issued a directive to UK airports using Next Generation Security Checkpoints (NGSC), which includes London Southend. From 00:01 on Sunday 9 June 2024, 100ml restrictions on liquids will temporarily be reintroduced for passengers. However, passengers travelling through London Southend Airport can still keep everything, including all liquids and large electronics, in their cabin baggage when passing through security.
- 11.3 The following questions/comments were raised during the meeting:
- 11.3.1 M Taylor confirmed that to grow passenger numbers, LSA continues to liaise with other airline groups in relation to making similar hubs like that of easyJet.
  - 11.3.2 M Taylor commented that from the investor's perspective, LSA needs to grow the business within a two-year period, and will ensure that the right contracts are entered into with any airline to provide the best customer service possible.
  - 11.3.3 The new A320neo aircraft performance will help LSA to maintain routes through the winter periods.
  - 11.3.4 M Taylor emphasised that easyJet had incorrectly advertised the Tenerife flight times for 2025 which were provisional - once confirmed and allocated, they will operate within the S106 procedures and easyJet will update the information on their website accordingly.
  - 11.3.5 LSA is re-engaging with all usual airliner operators, and commented that Ryanair had invested in Boeing 737-8200 'Gamechanger' aircraft (40% less noise emissions) and is also receiving new Boeing 737-MAX aircraft which are 50% quieter than their Boeing 737-NG fleet.
  - 11.3.6 M Taylor advised that although the private jet centre contributes to the business, his primary focus was passenger growth.
  - 11.3.7 In response to a question by Councillor Cross, M Taylor commented that if LSA was at full capacity, then he would be in a stronger position to incentivise airlines to use the A320neo, or equivalent, however, the Airport is not yet at that point.

11.3.8 M Taylor to liaise with LSA's Business Development Director in relation to an Olympic team training nearby and the possibility of using the Jet Centre to Paris. **Action: MT 14/06/24**

11.3.9 J Marchetti stated that due to financial constraints and logistics, LSA is not planning to be involved in the Havens Hospices' 2025 trail.

#### 11.4 UEFA Football Event

11.4.1 LSA supported the UEFA football event by sharing capacity alongside all other relevant London Airports for the Champions League final which was held at Wembley. The huge event helped generate revenue for the UK economy. Given the timing of the game, flights operated between 23:00 on 1 June - 06:30am on 2 June. All flights operated under the terms of the S106 and existing controls.

11.4.2 J Marchetti commented that LSA was the only London Airport to accommodate the UEFA flights within existing operational controls. Other London Airports were granted additional allowances to accommodate night flights for this specific event.

11.4.3 Due to capacity, and to try and reduce disturbance for local residents, LSA operated the larger private charter flights from the passenger terminal, ie further away from Wells Avenue and other residential areas.

11.4.4 J Marchetti confirmed that LSA handled an additional 71 flights and transited over 1600 passengers during these early hours, with a total of 27 night flights. Government allocated police to all airports but no trouble was reported.

11.4.5 Over the two-day period 76 complaints were received from 10 residents – 68 complaints from 3 people.

11.4.6 LSA staff gave up their own time to ensure a smooth operation during this event and J Marchetti will share photographs with the group. **Action : JM 21/06/24**

11.4.7 J Dallimore congratulated the Airport on this successful event as there was plenty of advance notice.

## 12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### 12.1 Review of noise complaint by local resident (Mr D Smith) in relation to engine testing of the Vulcan Bomber on 10 May 2024

12.1.1 In accordance with the agreed process, the complaint and all corresponding communication had been shared with the Chairperson for consideration. Prior to the LSACC meeting, all members were forwarded once more the Noise Complaints Handling Service agreed by the ACC in 2020 (when WebTrak was introduced).

- 12.1.2 The Chairperson confirmed that the complaint had been registered on WebTrak and J Marchetti had provided Mr Smith with additional information regarding the complaint. Mr Smith remained dissatisfied with the level of information provided and accepted J Marchetti's proposal that the complaint response be submitted to the ACC for review.
- 12.1.3 After a detailed review of the exchange, the Chairperson advised that LSA had been compliant with S106 and the information submitted satisfies the agreed Noise Complaints procedure. For clarity, the Chairperson advised that WebTrak had correctly issued Mr Smith with the appropriate response i.e. that the aircraft had operated within LSA's agreed controls. For information, the Airport's engine test plan permits aircraft to be tested for up to 90 minutes and the Vulcan was positioned on 'Foxtrot' at 14:53 and began engine running at 15:11 until 16:00. The aircraft then taxied back to the hangar.
- 12.1.4 The Chairperson confirmed that no other complaints had been received except for Mr Smith's. J Marchetti emphasised that testing of the Vulcan takes place 2-3 times a year and the Airport receives numerous positive feedback from aviation enthusiasts.
- 12.1.5 In response to a question raised by Councillor Cross, N Park advised that the Vulcan at LSA is the most functional in the UK and attracts many followers of the Vulcan Restoration Trust. If the aircraft is kept in a good state of repair, there is the possibility that the Trust could, at some point in the future, apply for the Vulcan to become airborne once more.
- 12.1.6 Following the detailed review by the Chairperson and discussions with members of the LSACC, the meeting was unanimous that Mr Smith had been provided the appropriate response, and the Chairperson concluded that no further action was necessary.
- 12.2 Noise complaint by local resident (Mr D Smith) in relation to UEFA football event and night flights 1-2 June 2024
- 12.2.1 The Chairperson commented that members had been copied on an email addressed to him by Mr Smith in relation to his complaint about night-time flights at LSA during the UEFA football event at Wembley.
- 12.2.2 The Chairperson was outraged at Mr Smith's email titled " London Southend Airport - War Impact 01 to 02-Jun-24" in which he drew comparison of the UEFA nighttime flights with the wars in Ukraine and Israel-Gaza:
- "This will be the equivalent of the sleepless nights suffered currently by the residents of **Ukraine, Israel and Palestine in their war zones**, but actually repeated here in the UK **on our own doorsteps.**"*
- 12.2.3 All members shared the Chairperson's indignation at Mr Smith's reference and were unanimous in that his communication did not dignify a response.

**13. DATES OF 2024 MEETINGS**

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

**Wednesday 11 September**

**Wednesday 20 November**

The meeting ended at 15:50

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_