

LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT

Minutes of meeting No. 121 of the Consultative Committee held on Tuesday 19 November 2024 at 2pm at Southend Airport

Present: 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
Lana Balmer	Independent Representative
Ray Howard MBE	Independent Representative
Councillor Mike Steptoe	Essex County Council
Zhanine Smith (Officer)	Essex County Council
Councillor Doug O Bown	Maldon District Council
Councillor Richard Linden	Rochford District Council
Jonathan Quilter (Officer)	Rochford District Council
Councillor Robert McMullan	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)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Chairperson Murray Foster, Councillors Cowan, Fuller, Scott, Richardson, Reeves & Williams, and L Cable and M Davies.

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.

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING 11 SEPTEMBER 2024

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

5. REAPPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON AND INDEPENDENT MEMBER

- 5.1 The Chairperson advised Murray Foster and Mike Davies had been in position for three years and in accordance with the Constitution, it was for members to decide whether they should continue in their respective roles for a further three years.
- 5.2 In their absence, the meeting was unanimous and both individuals were reappointed. **All to note – transfer to Points Forward Diary November 2027.**

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 6.1 LSA's Marketing and Digital Content Manager confirmed that LSA already has a form available for all passengers, including those arriving on a diverted flight, to provide their feedback. The link below is available to passengers as a QR code in the terminal areas: <https://form.jotform.com/240175194266054> **Actioned – remove from minutes.**
- 6.2 Following a request from Councillor Hoy at the previous meeting in relation to whether it was possible to differentiate between levels of education in the different departments/roles of the Airport, Head of People at LSA has confirmed that it is possible, although has requested some further time to enact upon this as the Airport is currently transferring its HR system to a new provider. N Park to provide update at next meeting. **Action: NP 19/02/25.**
- 6.3 In relation to the Airport actively seeking to switch all its energy supply to 100% green energy, M Taylor reported that LSA is not currently able to sign-up to 100% green energy due to market pressures and point of recovery. The Airport is actively progressing other energy reduction initiatives, e.g. implementing LED high-mast lighting and migrating to electric vehicles where possible and reducing energy will remain one of the Airport's priorities.
- 6.4 At the September meeting, J Marchetti advised that the Airport had been approached by Rabbi Levi Schapiro in relation to how the Orthodox Jewish community travel through LSA. Cllr Scott advised he had also received a communication from the Rabbi and asked J Marchetti to refer Rabbi Schapiro to Councillor Scott, in his capacity as a member of LSACC. **Revised action date: Cllr Scott 19/02/25.**
- 6.5 Councillor Steptoe to ask St Laurence and All Saints Church to get in contact with M Taylor as The Revd Carolyn Madanat, the new Priest-in-Charge, has been installed. Contact details have been passed on to LSA. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

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

- 7.1 The CAA has now completed the Stage 2 'Develop & Assess' Gateway Assessment and is satisfied that London Southend Airport FASI (ACP-2018-90) has met the requirements of the process up to this point. The CAA approves progress to Stage 3 'Consult'.
- 7.2 Further information on LSA's ACP can be found here [Airspace change proposal public view \(caa.co.uk\)](https://www.caa.co.uk/air-space-change-proposal-public-view)
- 7.3 LSA will now seek to begin work on Stage 3 (there are 7 Stages in total). Further information will be made available on the website as the Airport progresses through Stage 3 [FASI South - London Southend Airport](#).
- 7.4 N Park commented that the Department for Transport and the UK Civil Aviation Authority launched an eight-week consultation on 22 October 2024 on plans to create a UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS). UKADS would be a single guiding mind to coordinate and sponsor future airspace changes to deliver the holistic, modernised airspace design envisaged by the Airspace Modernisation Strategy. The consultation also proposes to reform the funding of airspace change proposals by creating a new UK Airspace Design Charge. The consultation (97 pages) can be found on the UK Civil Aviation Authority's dedicated consultation webpage.
- 7.5 Anyone wishing to respond to the consultation, can until 11:59pm on 17 December 2024.
- 7.6 N Park to provide update at the next meeting. **Action: NP 19/02/25.**

8. AIRPORT SURFACE ACCESS STRATEGY (ASAS) REVIEW

- 8.1 J Marchetti advised that there was very little to update against targets in relation to this document due to low passenger numbers, as the Airport is still in recovery phase as a result of the pandemic. However, LSA is monitoring departing passengers via a QR code survey, which provides an insight into transport modes. In summary, between February-October 2024, out of 300 respondents 37% arrived by train which is positive.
- 8.2 As the Airport gets busier in 2025, LSA will continue to take information from its passengers, and this will guide the Airport as to how to develop the ASAS targets. Once passenger numbers reach 1.5-2 million, this will trigger the review. The Transport Liaison group will continue to monitor progress. **Transfer to Points Forward Diary November 2025.**
- 8.3 The meeting commented that they look forward to seeing how Southend City Council direct the bus allocation funding (over £2 million) from Government, and this issue will be discussed further at the annual Transport Forum in March 2025.
- 8.4 The First X30 service ceased during the pandemic, but talks are in progress in relation to bringing this service back to the Airport.
- 8.5 Cllr McMullan reported that there is a new bus route planned (LSA - Eastwood - Leigh) which will be out to tender in the first quarter of next year. Once an operator has been confirmed, this service will be operational 6 days a week on an hourly basis, hopefully commencing in mid-summer 2025. Cllr McMullan to provide update at next meeting. **Action: Cllr McMullan 19/02/25.**
- 8.6 Any LSACC member can attend the annual Transport Forum should they wish, and a meeting invitation will be circulated to members once the date is confirmed. **JM to note.**

9. CEO REPORT

- 9.1 The Committee reviewed the report covering the period August to October 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.
- 9.2 The Chairperson commented that it would be taken as 'read' and M Taylor summarised some principal points:
- 9.2.1 The Airport had a positive summer – top two objectives are safety & security and to exceed easyJet's expectations. Proud to report that on three occasions during the summer, LSA's operations received 'top spot' for customer satisfaction.
- 9.2.2 It's now the end of the summer, so focus is on recruitment for based operations next year. Expectation is 800,000 passengers in 2025 and easyJet based aircraft (x3) will be the Airbus 320neo.
- 9.2.3 Over 400 applications were received following the Recruitment Day held on 13 November, and LSA is looking to employ 100 staff next summer.
- 9.2.4 M Taylor congratulated his staff following the CAA Passenger Survey, where PRM passengers scored LSA's services as excellent.

9.2.5 The Airport continues to be fully engaged with Southend City Council, Rochford District Council and Essex County Council in relation to S106 operational review, and submitted its revised plans to the local authorities on 25 September. M Mhiribidi advised that SCC is finalising its comments and will provide feedback to LSA early next week.

9.2.6 M Taylor confirmed that additional EV charging points are being installed.

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

9.3.1 R Howard placed on record his appreciation for the Airport touring 39 Air Scouts and Leaders from Night Hawk Explorer Scout Unit, Canvey Island, all of whom thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

9.3.2 M Taylor confirmed that circa 88% of employees are from SS postcodes, with some specialist roles recruited further afield, and easyJet is positively recruiting locally.

9.3.3 The Airport is waiting for confirmation that Border Force will be on-site full-time next year, which will open-up further opportunities to accept diversions.

9.3.4 The mobile noise monitor had been discussed at the Noise Forum, and no requests had been made during the reporting quarter.

9.3.5 The annual Mental Elf family run (5K) will be held in Belfairs Woods on Sunday 1 December 10:30-12:30, with funds raised going to the SECE charity.

9.3.6 The number of noise complaints for the reporting period was low. There were six non-compliant flights, resulting in a third infringement by easyJet, therefore, £500 fine invoiced. These monies will be given to charity in the local community by the ACC sub-committee. Detailed discussions took place in relation to this third infringement which was due to Paris crew misunderstanding the noise abatement procedure, and the ACC was satisfied with the subsequent actions taken by the Airport to address this issue.

9.3.7 Z Smith reported that when other airlines join LSA, the Airport could consider in the future following London Stansted's practice in relation to 'ranking' airlines from worst to best offenders.

9.3.8 N Park advised that when Base Captains are in place next year for easyJet, regular interface briefings will take place to ensure crew members follow procedures.

9.3.9 J Marchetti to contact Cllr Linden separately in relation to introducing contacts for dementia and autism events. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 CAA consultation on the Future Direction of the UK Aviation Environmental Review (AER)

10.1.1 The CAA is now seeking views on the future development of the AER with the aim of developing it into a comprehensive and robust tool that can be used by Government, industry and other interested stakeholders to inform and drive positive environmental change. The consultation seeks feedback on:

- the overall ambition and aims for the AER; and
- the nature of environmental data reported within the AER, including how this data should be presented.

10.1.2 There are several questions relating to the reporting on climate change, noise and air quality and each section specifically asks whether data should be broken down from national level to either airport clusters or airport levels (and airlines in the case of climate change reporting). The consultation document can be found on the CAA's website.

10.1.3 The closing date for responses is 10 December 2024. All ACCs are encouraged to respond to the consultation.

10.1.4 ACC members to email E McDonnell by close of business 22 November if they have any comments. **All to note.**

10.2 Community Information and Feedback Forum (CIFF)

10.2.1 The Chairperson advised that he attended the inaugural meeting above. The CIFF provides a structured and open relationship with key community representatives from areas impacted by aviation around the largest airports, where each has a role in helping to moderate those impacts. The main purpose of the CIFF is to ensure that communities feel informed about the CAA's work and priorities at a strategic level, and that they are able to feed into our work programmes where appropriate.

10.2.2 The Chairperson stated that the CIFF will meet six-monthly and if anything relevant comes from the forum (see item 7 above), he will update the ACC accordingly.

10.3 Santo's Grotto, Rochford

10.3.1 Councillor Steptoe thanked LSA for sponsoring RDC's Christmas event on Sunday 1 December 2024.

DATES OF 2025 MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 19 February

Wednesday 4 June

Wednesday 3 September

Wednesday 19 November

The meeting ended at 15:30

Signed _____ Date: _____



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

