

LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT

Minutes of meeting No. 122 of the Consultative Committee held on Tuesday 18 February 2025 at 2pm at Southend Airport

Present: David Osborn	Chairperson
Murray Foster	Deputy Chairman
Jude Winstanley	CEO, LSA
Jo Marchetti	Corporate & Social Responsibility (CSR) Manager, LSA
Nicole Park	Head of Air Traffic Services, LSA
Mike Davies	Independent Represe
Ray Howard MBE	Independent Representative
Councillor Lee Scott	Essex County Council
Councillor Mike Steptoe	Essex County Council
Zhanine Smith (Officer)	Essex County Council
Councillor Judith Suttling	Leigh Town Council
Councillor Michael Hoy	Rochford District Council
Councillor Richard Linden	Rochford District Council
Councillor Arthur Williams	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
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 Councillors Garston, Bown, Cowan, Richardson, Fuller and Reeves, together with L Cable, P Wilkins and L Balmer.

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. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- 3.1 The Chairperson asked all attendees to introduce themselves for the benefit of LSA's new CEO, Jude Winstanley.
- 3.2 Jude Winstanley provided a brief summary of his professional background, explaining that he has 25 years' experience in commercial aviation. LSA has undergone incredibly challenging times over the past 5 years due to the pandemic, and is looking forward to working with the ACC members.

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 19 NOVEMBER 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 Following a request from Cllr Hoy at a 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.
- 6.2 N Park reported that the new system for HR had been implemented but is still undergoing improvements. HR is currently prioritising onboarding for new colleagues. N Park to provide update at next meeting. **Action: NP 04/06/25.**
- 6.3 Cllr Scott confirmed that he had met with Rabbi Levi Schapiro and is arranging a meeting with J Winstanley and the Rabbi to discuss how the Orthodox Jewish community travel through LSA. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**
- 6.4 Cllr McMullan advised that in relation to the new bus route planned (LSA - Eastwood - Leigh), the proposal is being submitted to Southend City Council week commencing 24 February for approval, with the hope that the service will be up and running around July 2025. Cllr McMullan expressed his gratitude to J Marchetti for helping to organise this new service stopping outside the Terminal building which will help passengers using the Airport. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

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

- 7.1 N Park reminded members that LSA resubmitted Stage 2a and 2b documentation in early October 2024, following CAA feedback. The CAA confirmed following the October Gateway, that they were satisfied that London Southend Airport FASI (ACP-2018-90) had met the requirements of the process up to this point. The CAA approved progress to Stage 3 'Consult'.
- 7.2 There are 4 parts to Stage 3:
- Stage 3A: Consultation Preparation
 - Stage 3B: Consultation Approval > Gateway
 - Stage 3C: Commence Consultation
 - Stage 3D: Collate and Review Responses
- 7.3 N Park advised that the consultation process launched by the Department for Transport and the UK Civil Aviation Authority in October 2024 on plans to create a UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS) was closed, and LSA is now waiting to hear back from CAA. 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.
- 7.4 LSA is ready to carry on with the next phase of the project once they are advised they can proceed. N Park to provide update at the next meeting. **Action: NP 04/06/25.**

8. CEO REPORT

8.1 The Committee reviewed the report covering the period November 2024 to January 2025. 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 J Winstanley summarised some principal points:

8.2.1 Appreciation was extended to Marc Taylor, now Managing Director for Operations, for his outstanding contribution and leadership as interim CEO. The meeting was unanimous in their gratitude for Marc taking on this role and were delighted with his new position.

8.2.2 In 2019, LSA had 2.1 million passengers. In 2024, it had 200,000 passengers, with an expected rise to 700,000-750,000 in 2025. A full year of based aircraft at LSA is projected to reach 900,000 passengers.

8.2.3 A 'small' airport stops being small at 3 million passengers.

8.2.4 LSA is increasing its workforce by approximately 50%, and over 97% of the recruitment process is already complete.

8.2.5 J Winstanley emphasised the importance of being a good neighbor, noting that LSA is a significant piece of infrastructure within the community and that maintaining good relations is crucial.

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

8.3.1 Following a question from Cllr Steptoe, J Winstanley confirmed that he would encourage airlines, e.g. easyJet, to recruit from those living in an SS postcode. J Marchetti advised that all on-site businesses provide annual data in relation to employment postcodes, this will include easyJet next year. J Marchetti went on to note that many of the based easyJet crews will be returning colleagues of which, many live locally.

8.3.2 In response to Cllr Hoy's query about LSA's plans to improve infrastructure and railways, J Winstanley reiterated that his principal focus is delivering the best service to customers this summer. He mentioned that his longer-term plans will become clearer in the coming months.

8.3.3 R Howard commented that J Marchetti works tirelessly on noise complaints and appreciated J Winstanley's passion to develop LSA and relations within the community, although he would not be able to please everyone all of the time. R Howard welcomed J Winstanley to the team.

8.3.4 **Post meeting note:** J Winstanley confirmed that he had already met with Jonathan Stephenson, Chief Executive of Rochford District Council, and is happy to meet other key stakeholders as building good relationships within the community is paramount.

- 8.3.5 M Davies reported that the people from Rayleigh are encouraged by what easyJet has to offer at LSA, and equally pleased that a new Newquay route is now accessible. M Davies enquired if further destinations, for example, Belfast, Edinburgh and the Channel Islands would be available. J Winstanley advised that his objective is to secure more routes and carriers in the future.
- 8.3.6 Following a query by Cllr McMullan, J Winstanley commented that expansion plans at other London airports were being proposed. Increasing passenger demand would have a positive impact on LSA.
- 8.3.7 Cllr Steptoe asked what the Airport's plans are in relation to future carbon reduction initiatives, and for LSA to explain the reasons for objecting to a local business on Aviation Way applying for solar panels. N Park confirmed that in relation to the latter, LSA was fully supportive of solar panels around the Airport, but part of the application process relates to safeguarding and 'glint and glare' assessment as this could affect pilots and ATCs. LSA is currently going through this process with the developer as location of the proposed solar panels is a consideration. J Winstanley advised that LSA is committed to minimising its environmental impact and protecting air quality, aiming to run the business as cleanly and efficiently as possible.
- 8.3.8 Following Cllr Linden's enquiry as to what is the Airport's strategy to increase freight business into the area, J Winstanley commented that current carriers are passenger related only (not cargo) but LSA would consider freight in the future, however the priority is passenger aviation, and the objective is to grow the Airport sustainably.
- 8.3.9 J Winstanley confirmed that in relation to Jet Centre activity, the prediction for 2025 is positive.
- 8.3.10 Z Smith emphasised to LSA that ECC is the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) in the Essex region, and they should feel free to liaise with LLFA at any time.
- 8.3.11 Following a comment made by Cllr Steptoe, N Park to liaise with Cllr Steptoe and LSA's Wildlife Hazard Control Management team in relation to clarifying LSA's processes in this area and potential assistance with a specific case. N Park to provide an update at next meeting. **Action: NP 04/06/25.**
- 8.3.12 J Marchetti reported that in relation to the S106 Operational Review, feedback had been received, comments worked through, and plans submitted to SCC and other LAs. LSA is now waiting to hear from SCC if they wish to discuss anything further. Once agreed, the draft plans will be shared with the LSACC and Noise Forum.
- 8.3.13 J Marchetti advised that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in the UK has commissioned AtkinsRéalis to design a robust methodology for the review of Noise Action Plans (NAPs) and to conduct the study at 10 selected airports - LSA has been selected as one of the ten airports to be included in the study. The review will consist of evaluating the process for developing and implementing Noise Action Plans, their effectiveness as a noise management tool, and the clarity of guidance prepared to support airport operators with the development of their Noise Action Plans. Alongside the review of the Noise Action Plans, the CAA are seeking feedback from airports on their experiences with Noise Action Plans.

- 8.3.14 LSA has submitted a response to the survey, requesting a more standardized template to compare NAPs with other airports, different guidance for various airport sizes, and additional monitoring. LSA is voluntarily working with the Noise Forum to look at some objectives and monitoring solutions. New guidance is expected to be issued in mid-2025.
- 8.3.15 In relation to noise, J Marchetti confirmed there were 2 non-compliant flights during the Q4 period i.e., turned early and broke NPR controls. One of the non-compliant flights is still under investigation as pilots have stated 'wind shear' as the cause. Therefore, one may be excused due to weather conditions.
- 8.3.16 easyJet has been issued with a 4th infringement notice, resulting in a £1,000 fine. LSA has met with the easyJet operational team to discuss noise abatement controls at Southend to try and find a solution for away-based crews, and remedial measures were agreed by easyJet. Based on aircraft departure records during the previous easyJet base period 2012–2019, it is understood, and evidenced, that based crews have fewer violations than away-based crews. LSA does not expect infringements to increase with the return of easyJet Southend based crews.
- 8.3.17 J Marchetti advised that there was now £1,500 available for local charities. L Sawyer to convene the ACC sub-committee to decide where the monies should be allocated within the community. **Action: LS 04/06/25.**
- 8.3.18 J Marchetti commented that there is a potential for a Mobile Noise Monitoring request via the Noise Forum, from a gentleman in Eastwood on a farm who suffers noise from light aircraft and will keep the LSACC updated accordingly. **JM to note.**
- 8.3.19 Cllr McMullan enquired if membership of the Noise Forum was short of any geographical locations and J Marchetti advised that if any local resident wished to apply for membership, they just need to meet the requirements of the ToR and Code of Conduct - applications should be made directly to the Chairperson at michaelthwaites.lsanoiseforum@gmail.com
- 8.3.20 N Park advised that taxiway Charlie will be used more as air traffic increases but stressed that aircraft taxiing is minimised wherever possible, and its usage will be in line with procedures.
- 8.3.21 In relation to Community Relations, J Marchetti mentioned three principal initiatives:
- On 6 February the Airport supported national 'Time to Talk' day by displaying bench banners in the terminal and rail station, encouraging people to talk about mental health.
 - In December and January N Park hosted student visits to the control tower.
 - LSA has liaised with a member of its PRM Committee to arrange an 'Autism Reality Event' for 24 passenger facing colleagues in March 2025.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Draft Annual Report

- 9.1.1 This document will be available in draft format for review by members at the June meeting.

9.2 Future Guests

9.2.1 It was agreed to invite guests, intrinsically linked to the Airport, to future meetings to give keynote addresses. In the first instance, N Park to invite the police to attend the June meeting. **Action: NP 04/06/25.**

9.3 Membership Queries

9.3.1 Following a query raised by Cllr Steptoe and E McDonnell's subsequent explanation of the history of communications between her (as the LSACC Secretary) and Cllr S Martin, Vice Chair of Rochford Hundred Assoc. of Local Councils (RHALC), copied to Angelina Marriott, in relation to whether RHALC wishes to maintain membership of the LSACC, it was agreed that Cllr Steptoe would ask RHALC's Chairman to update E McDonnell accordingly. **Action: MS 04/03/25.**

9.3.2 E McDonnell to contact Castle Point Borough Council to confirm if they wish to maintain membership on the ACC due to the lack of attendance at the last five meetings. **Action: EM 04/03/25.**

9.3.3 E McDonnell to submit a formal request to LSA enquiring whether easyJet would wish to provide a member to sit on the LSACC. **Action: EM 04/03/25.**

9.4 Santa's Grotto, Rochford

9.4.1 On behalf of Rochford District Council, Cllr Williams thanked LSA for sponsoring this Christmas event.

9.5 Wildlife Strikes

9.5.1 R Smithson raised the recent incident of swans attacking a Tui flight in mid-air and that the RSPB is extending the Wallasea Island reserve by 100 hectares to the west, encouraging feeding opportunities to ducks passing on migration etc, and aircraft at that point are crossing the lagoon at circa 1500 feet. N Park commented that from a regulatory aspect, LSA is obliged to contact RSPB if they wish to change how airspace is used but not vice versa. N Park to liaise with the RSPB and provide an update at the next meeting. **Action: NP 04/06/25.**

9.6 British Empire Medal (BEM)

9.6.1 The committee extended their congratulations to M Davis, Founder of Rayleigh Town Museum, who was recognised in the New Year Honours and received the BEM for his work and dedication in highlighting Rayleigh's rich history and culture.

DATES OF 2025 MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 4 June

Wednesday 3 September

Wednesday 19 November

The meeting ended at 15:20

Signed: _____ Date: _____