

LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT

Minutes of meeting No. 123 of the Consultative Committee held on Wednesday 4 June 2025 at 2pm at Southend Airport

Present: Murray Foster	Deputy Chairman
Marc Taylor	Managing Director for Operations, LSA
Jo Marchetti	Corporate & Social Responsibility (CSR) Manager, LSA
Nicole Park	Head of Air Traffic Services, LSA
Lana Balmer	Independent Representative
Mike Davies	Independent Representative
Ray Howard MBE	Independent Representative
Councillor Jamie Huntman	Castle Point Borough Council
Councillor Jill Reeves	Essex County Council
Councillor Lee Scott	Essex County Council
Councillor Mike Steptoe	Essex County Council
Zhanine Smith (Officer)	Essex County Council
Councillor Jonathan Garston	Leigh Town Council
Councillor Doug O Bown	Maldon District Council
Councillor Richard Linden	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
Les Sawyer	Residents Assoc (West Leigh)
James Crewdson	easyJet
Emma McDonnell	Secretary (Minutes)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from the Chairperson, J Winstanley, Councillors Williams, Hoy, Efde and Norman, together with J Dallimore, J Quilter, M Mhiribidi, I McNab, L Cable and R Smithson.

2. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

- 2.1 The Deputy Chairman explained that the Chairman had a hospital appointment and that, due to urgent operational issues, item 6 on the agenda 'Presentation by Essex Police' was postponed and that hopefully this will be rescheduled for the September LSACC meeting. The Deputy Chairman 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 Due to recent local elections, there were a number of new members attending, therefore, the Deputy Chairperson asked everyone to introduce themselves. A warm welcome was extended to James Crewdson, easyJet Southend base flight captain, who joined the forum via 'Teams'.

4. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 4.1 The Deputy 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 18 FEBRUARY 2025

- 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 E McDonnell confirmed that in relation to a request from Cllr Hoy at a previous meeting as to whether it was possible to differentiate between levels of education in the different departments/roles of the Airport, N Park had sent Cllr Hoy an email providing an update on this issue. **Remove from minutes.**
- 6.2 E McDonnell advised that a copy of the Airport's Wildlife Hazard Control management Plan had been sent to Cllr Steptoe in relation to clarifying LSA's processes in this area – N Park confirmed that the document is not for wider circulation. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**
- 6.3 N Park confirmed that RSPB had engaged with the Airport and thanked R Smithson for providing the information previously minuted in relation to swans attacking a Tui flight in mid-air. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**
- 6.4 J Marchetti advised that there was now £1,500 available for local charities. Cllrs Steptoe and McMullan and M Davies agreed to form a sub-committee with L Sawyer to decide where the monies should be allocated within the community. L Sawyer to provide update at next meeting.
Action: LS 03/09/25.
- 6.5 E McDonnell confirmed that Castle Point Borough Council wish to maintain membership on the LSACC, and also easyJet have accepted the invitation for a member to sit on the committee.
Actioned – remove from minutes.

7. POINTS FORWARD DIARY

- 7.1 Annual review of the process in place to manage flights departing outside the NPRS

Compliance with Section 106 Agreement

- 7.2 The annual review of the processes in place in relation to managing flights which depart outside the Noise Preferential Routes (NPRs) was undertaken. J Marchetti explained the background to this process for new members and that historically, most breaches were from non-base pilots.
- 7.3 J Crewdson explained that most captains who have returned to LSA are previously based at the Airport, are aware of the procedures and easyJet's own company documentation is reviewed prior to every flight. J Marchetti explained that non-compliant flights which deviate from the NPRs are recorded and investigated, with quarterly reports issued to the LSACC for review.
- 7.4 J Marchetti put forward the motion to retain the current structure in place to manage flights departing outside the NPRs.
- 7.5 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 and at that time, a biennial review maybe considered. **Transfer to Points Forward Diary May 2026.**

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

- 8.1 It was announced in Parliament on 2 June 2025 that the new UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS) will be fully operational by the end of 2025 and plans were laid out enabling the largest redesign of UK airspace since it was first formed in the 1950s, when there were only around 200,000 flights per year, compared to 2.7 million in 2024.
- 8.2 Modernising the airspace will open up capacity, supporting growth and thousands of jobs in the aviation and tourism sectors, as well as reducing delays and emissions per flight resulting from planes circling in the sky while waiting to land. Redesigned 'skyways' could also allow planes to climb quicker during take-off and descend more smoothly, reducing noise and air pollution for residents who live along flight routes.
- 8.3 N Park advised that following the work the Airport has carried out in the previous five years, government has now realised that the methodology is not necessarily the best to achieve optimal timeframe. Therefore, in layman terms, rather than each individual airport filing an Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) to support their strategy as a stakeholder in the development of the wider UK Airspace Modernisation Strategy, a task force has been created by government which will be the single author, advising each airport what their ACP will be. N Park reported that by the end of the year LSA will have more insight as to what this will look like.
- 8.4 N Park commented that original implementation was 2030 but due to change in methodology, a more realistic timeframe is 2033-2035 as UKADS will initially focus on London's airspace, with expansion at London Heathrow alone expected to create over 100,000 extra jobs, turbocharge economic growth, strengthen the UK's status as a global hub and deliver major benefits for airlines and passengers.
- 8.5 N Park to provide update at the November meeting. **Transfer Points Forward Diary: NP 19/11/25.**
- 8.6 R Howard raised the concern of how busy the sky is with aircraft currently accessing London City Airport by firstly crossing over Burnham, then over Southend Airport, Leigh, Canvey and then on to Tilbury before landing at LCY. N Park reported that a no-fly zone has been established around the SS Richard Montgomery, a WWII shipwreck off the coast of Sheerness, Kent, to minimize risk during safety work. Flights are restricted below 13,100 ft within a one-nautical-mile radius of the wreck. The restriction applies to all aircraft except for emergency services and those with specific permission. The area is located approximately 1.5 miles north of the Thames Estuary, where the SS Richard Montgomery sank. N Park has a meeting on Monday 9 June to discuss next steps for a permanent resolution and will provide an update at the next meeting. **Action: NP 03/09/25.**
- 8.7 Following a comment from M Davies, N Park reassured members that in relation to any new local housing development, UKADS will consult with LSA, therefore, input from the community is essential and the Airport will update the community during every step of the airspace redesign process.

9. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

9.1 The Draft Annual Report (1 March 2024 - 28 February 2025) had previously been circulated to members electronically, requesting feedback by 18 June. J Marchetti summarised key data/information required by S106:

- Passenger numbers: up 66% on previous year
- Destinations: 23 – up by 12 on previous year
- Countries served: 11
- Staff living within an SS postcode area: 84%
- Number of LSA employees: 295 (increase of 68 from previous year)
- Fundraising: £8,000+
- Fundraising total since 2011: £138,000+
- Volunteering hours: 225
- NO₂ around the airport (4 locations): Range 16.30–18.76 µg/m³ (Government Air Quality Objective is 40 µg/m³)
- Solar Farm: 23% of electricity used came from on-site solar farm
- Waste: 0% waste to landfill
- Total Air Traffic Movements (ATMs) excluding exempt flights: 26,860
- % of annual ATM quota used: 50%
- % night-time ATM quota used: 6%
- Noise complaints: 453
- Noise complainants: 40
- 4% of aircraft operations generated noise complaints
- 100% of complaints related to aircraft operating within the Airport's agreed controls.

9.2 J Marchetti stressed that the draft report was confidential at this stage and once members have reviewed its content and provided any feedback, it will then be shared with the Carlyle Group, and then submitted to the ACC Chairman for final approval, allowing publication by email to stakeholders and on LSA's website.

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

- 9.3.1 Cllr Huntman asked if the car parking was managed by the Airport or private contractor? J Marchetti confirmed that LSA manages their car parks and is constantly reviewing pricing. M Taylor commented that undercover car parking is being actively looked at.
- 9.3.2 The Airport is in contact with First who are monitoring demand for the X30 to return to the terminal forecourt. The X30 currently stops on Eastwoodbury Crescent. Demand would need to justify additional 'dead leg' journey time that would be added to the timetable.
- 9.3.3 L Balmer asked if there was any scope to increase the solar farm. M Taylor said the primary objective was to optimise the electricity that can be fed back to the grid. The existing solar farm was located on land prone to flooding and therefore unsuitable for other Airport use.
- 9.3.4 Cllr Cowan confirmed that he was meeting with Transport for London (TfL)/ Department for Transport (DfT) in relation to a proposal to extend the Queen Elizabeth line from Shenfield so it connects to Southend Airport – this would also provide a direct link to London Heathrow. Cllr Scott advised that at a meeting with TfL in 2002 involving Crossrail, it was originally envisaged to extend the line to Southend. Cllr Cowan to liaise with Cllr Scott prior to his meeting with TfL. **Action: Cllr Cowan 11/06/25.**

- 9.3.5 Cllr McMullan stated that 16% recyclable waste is low and asked if LSA could look at improving this. J Marchetti explained that the Airport is working to increase recycling percentage, but contamination by passengers not using the appropriate recycle bins is a challenge.
- 9.3.6 Following discussions in relation to the percentages of where staff live, i.e. SS postcode areas on page 32, Z Smith to liaise with J Marchetti separately as to how best classify Southend/Essex areas.
- 9.4 The Deputy Chairman thanked J Marchetti for the immense amount of work that had been attributed in the creation of the draft report and reminded members to provide any feedback to J Marchetti by 18 June. **Action: All to note.**

10. CEO REPORT

- 10.1 The Committee reviewed the report covering the period February to April 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.
- 10.2 The Deputy Chairperson commented that it would be taken as 'read' and M Taylor summarised some principal points:
- 10.2.1 LSA is 'London's fastest growing airport' according to aviation data experts, RDC.
- 10.2.2 LSA has won the award for 'Best Route Development & Marketing' in the airports under 5 million passengers' category at this year's Routes Europe Awards in Seville, Spain.
- 10.2.3 In March, easyJet opened its 10th UK base at LSA.
- 10.2.4 Hoping to announce new routes for the winter.
- 10.2.5 Expect to grow further next year.
- 10.2.6 Safety and security remain principal objective and hope to exceed easyJet's expectations.
- 10.2.7 Recruited 150 new colleagues since the start of 2025 and hoping to convert at the end of June some fixed term contracts to permanent depending on winter schedule.
- 10.2.8 LSA is consistently in the top 5 of easyJet's own customer satisfaction, hitting number 1 for the month of May.
- 10.3 The following questions/comments were raised during the meeting:
- 10.3.1 Cllr Linden reported that on social media negative comments were being made about lack of notification to passengers in relation to easyJet Alicante flights being moved. J Crewdson thanked Cllr Linden for bringing this to his attention and will look into the matter to ensure the airline is being proactive and not reactive. **Post meeting note:** this was confirmed to be an easyJet IT error.
- 10.3.2 N Park confirmed that two ATC apprentices were now employed.

- 10.3.3 M Taylor reported that the Newquay flight had started fairly early in the Summer season; LSA continues to support Eastern Airways and is seeing load factor increase.
- 10.3.4 Cllr Linden advised that Southend Airport Hotel (Holiday Inn) is up for sale, wanting offers in excess of £13 million.
- 10.3.5 M Taylor commented that employees with operational roles are physically at the Airport, and finance/administration/HR positions can and do work from home, but he is encouraging more staff to be on-site to support the operation when required.
- 10.3.6 Cllr O Bown commented that one of his constituents in Burnham on Crouch had approached him about a specific noise complaint, and J Marchetti confirmed that the resident had been in contact with the Community Noise Forum Chair and discussed future membership.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 M Taylor advised that some members may have recently been copied on an email to J Winstanley from a specific noise complainant. M Taylor confirmed that this morning LSA had written to the complainant advising that, given the extent the Airport has engaged with him over the years, directly in good faith about the numerous issues raised, an impasse has been reached whereby his complaints cannot be resolved to his satisfaction. Therefore, with immediate effect, the complainant has been advised that any emails sent to individuals, including LSA's CEO, will not be reviewed. Any future emails regarding specific noise complaints should be addressed only to the LSA Noise Manager and any issues with WebTrak will be managed appropriately. Any other new noise matters should be directed to the Community Noise Forum, either via the Chair or the complainant's representative.
- 11.2 The Deputy Chairperson commented that hopefully the Police will be able to attend the 3 September LSACC meeting, and that J Crewdson will be in attendance in person.
- 11.3 The meeting was unanimous in that it would be helpful if future meetings could be diarised for members by an electronic calendar invitation being sent. J Marchetti to liaise with IT accordingly and, due to GDPR guidelines, the option to 'hide' email addresses on the invitations. **Action JM: 11/06/25.**

DATES OF 2025 MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 3 September
Wednesday 19 November

The meeting ended at 15:25

Signed: _____ Date: _____