

LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT

Minutes of meeting No. 128 of the Consultative Committee held on Monday 21 September 2026 at 2pm at Southend Airport

Present: Murray Foster	Chairman
Lana Balmer	Deputy Chair
Jude Winstanley	CEO, LSA
Martin Laycock	Head of Air Traffic Services, LSA
Jo Marchetti	Corporate & Social Responsibility (CSR) Manager, LSA
Ray Howard MBE	Independent Representative
David Osborn	Independent Representative
Councillor James Cottis	Essex County Council
Councillor Pat Murray	Essex County Council
Zhanine Smith (Officer)	Essex County Council
Councillor Roger Weaver	Leigh Town Council
Councillor Tino Callaghan	Rochford District Council
Councillor Richard Linden	Rochford District Council
Councillor Simon Wootton	Rochford District Council
Daniel Kudla (Officer)	Rochford District Council
Councillor Frankie Bird	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Councillor David Garston	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Councillor Robert McMullan	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Councillor Mike Steptoe	Rochford Hundred Assoc. of Local Councils
Paul Wilkins	Rochford Board of Trade
Mark Hayward	easyJet
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 Councillor Huntman, Iain McNab, Marshall Mhiribidi, and Les Sawyer. E McDonnell advised that Maldon District Council were no longer members of the committee and Ian Butt, Castle Point Borough Council (officer), had also resigned from the committee, but a replacement has not yet been advised.

2. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

- 2.1 The Chairperson advised that Councillor Cowan has had to step down from the committee and his replacement is Councillor Matt Dent. Furthermore, Mike Davies, Independent Representative, has resigned due to health issues (see item 5).
- 2.2 The Chairperson congratulated the Airport on being rated 'Very Good' in the latest Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Airport Accessibility Performance Report 2025/26. Additionally, LSA has climbed to first place among UK airports for punctuality, according to the latest CAA statistics for the second quarter of 2026, overtaking Liverpool and Aberdeen to claim the top position from third place.

3. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- 3.1 There were a number of new members attending, therefore, the Chairperson asked everyone to introduce themselves. A warm welcome was extended to all attendees, and a vote of thanks was extended to previous members who were no longer on the committee.
- 3.2 The Chairperson 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.

4. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 4.1 The Chairperson reminded members to declare any conflicts of interest at each quarterly meeting. Councillor McMullan declared that he holds a PPL and is a member of Seawing Flying Club, and Lana Balmer is married to an easyJet pilot based at LSA.

5. MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 The Chairperson to write to Mike Davies to wish him well and thank him for his time and involvement with the committee. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**
- 5.2 It was agreed to advertise the 'Independent Representative' vacancy and for a sub-committee to review/interview any applications. Councillors Callaghan and Wootton offered to be on the sub-committee with the Chairperson.

5.2.2 J Marchetti to advertise the vacancy on LSA's website. **Action: JM 5/10/26.**

- 5.3 The Chairperson reported that a sub-committee, comprising the Chair, J Winstanley and Councillor Wootton, had met to consider a membership application under the 'Councils/Community Associations' category. The application was subsequently withdrawn. The Chairperson asked members whether they wished the current vacancy in this category to be advertised.
- 5.4 Following detailed discussion, it was agreed that the committee already had a high number of members; the membership list is publicly available on LSA's website, where any vacancies can be viewed; there is no constitutional requirement to advertise the vacancy, and resident representation was already provided through a range of existing committee members. Z Smith also reminded the meeting of the DfT guidance relating to Airport Consultative Committees.
- 5.5 Members unanimously agreed that there was no need to advertise the 'Councils/Community Associations' vacancy at this time.
- 5.6 Councillor Bird noted that the membership list on LSA's website required updating. E McDonnell confirmed that, now the names of new members had been finalised, the list would be updated and posted on LSA's website without delay. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING 22 JUNE 2026

- 6.1 The minutes were formally adopted with no amendments and can be uploaded in final form on to the LSA website. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 7.1 E McDonnell confirmed that a review of Birmingham's Constitution (deemed as the gold star) had been undertaken, and compared with LSACC's Constitution, to see if any relevant provisions should be incorporated into, or amendments made to, LSACC's Constitution. E McDonnell advised that all the principal points are included in LSACC's current Constitution and proposed that the document be reviewed again in two years' time. The meeting was unanimous with the decision. **Transfer Points Forward Diary September 2028.**

7.1.1 The Chairperson reiterated that, as Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) decisions across much of the South East and England have been paused and withdrawn for review, leaving most timelines uncertain, the above diary note would remain in place.

- 7.2 J Winstanley confirmed that he had met separately with Councillor Bird to brief him on PUDO. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

8. NOISE PREFERENTIAL ROUTES (NPRS) REVISED SCALE OF FINES

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

Compliance with Section 106 Agreement

- 8.1.1 J Marchetti explained the background to this process for new members and that historically, most breaches were from non-base pilots (see minutes 22 June 2026).
- 8.1.2 At the 22 June meeting, it was agreed that: *“Following detailed discussion, members unanimously agreed that the financial penalty, which had remained unchanged since 2012, should be increased from £500 to £1,000 for a third offence, with incremental increases of £1000 for each infringement thereafter within the reporting period.”*
- 8.1.3 However, it was realised the committee did not have the full information before them when making the unanimous agreement, as historically there were higher threshold levels of fines as well. Given this, a revised document had been circulated to members prior to the September meeting so the full implications of the higher level of fines were transparent to all for agreement or modification by the LSACC. The Chairperson advised that Councillor Cowan, who suggested originally the need to increase, had reviewed the revised document and approved the revised figures below:

Scale of Fines 03/25 – 06/26	1st Fine	2-5 Fines	5+ Fines
QC1 or less	£500	£1,000	£2,000
QC1 – QC2	£1,000	£2,000	£4,000
More than QC2	£2,000	£4,000	£8,000

To:

Scale of Fines 06/26 – 03/27	1st Fine	2nd Fine	3rd Fine
QC1 or less	£1,000	£2,000	£3,000
QC1 – QC2	£2,000	£4,000	£8,000
More than QC2	£4,000	£8,000	£16,000

- 8.1.4 The above adjusted ‘Scale of Fines’ was approved and the funds generated go into a community fund and the LSACC will decide how these monies will be used for local charitable causes.

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

- 9.1 For the benefit of new members, M Laycock provided a brief update on the above. To summarise, LSA is a key partner in the UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS). Created to modernize UK airspace, UKADS aims to streamline traffic across the busy London Terminal Control Area, which will impact future flight routing and capacity at Southend.

9.2 UKADS & London Southend Airport

M Laycock advised that UKADS is now fully staffed and has started working on data collection, and there will be further updates next year as Airspace Design gets underway. UKADS will be managing consultation with all stakeholders accordingly. Implementation is expected 2033-2035. M Laycock to provide update at November meeting. **Action: ML 23/11/26.**

10. **CEO REPORT**

10.1 The committee reviewed the report covering the period May to July 2026. This report is published separately on the LSA website and should be read in conjunction with comments/questions below. The Chairperson commented that it would be taken as 'read' and J Winstanley summarised some principal points:

- The summer had been successful.
- Fuel prices continued to be a headwind, although there were no issues with fuel availability.
- LSA's first-place ranking among UK airports for punctuality, according to the latest CAA statistics for the second quarter of 2026, was testament to the excellent work of easyJet and Airport staff.
- Since the end of 2024, the Airport's workforce had increased by 50%, with 127 additional employees.
- An announcement regarding destinations would be made on Thursday 24 September.
- Guided tours of the Airport would be offered to LSACC members, subject to sufficient demand. Two tours would be held each year, with a maximum of 10 people per tour and priority given to new LSACC members. The Chairperson and E McDonnell would organise the tours, liaising with J Marchetti accordingly. **Action: MF/EM/JM 23/11/26.**

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

10.2.1 Councillor Steptoe asked if the Airport works with local schools in relation to career options, to which J Marchetti advised that members of staff attend careers events at various secondary schools.

10.2.2 Councillor Steptoe also asked whether the recent NATS incident had affected LSA's operations. J Winstanley confirmed that LSA had worked well with easyJet, noting that it had been a difficult day for UK travellers. Some flights had been rerouted through LSA to help passengers reach their destinations, while the impact of the NATS incident today had been minimal.

10.2.3 Following Councillor Garston's comments, J Winstanley advised that he would arrange for the team to carry out another walk through of the signage relating to PUDO to ensure sufficient visibility/awareness during both the day and at night. **Action: JW 30/10/26.**

10.3 The following questions were submitted by Councillor Callaghan in advance of the meeting:

- Why does Excel Parking not have a system where you can set up an account?
- Why does Excel not have an option to pay in advance?
- Why does Excel ignore emails?
- Why does LSA not have a free drop-off off-site like the majority of other airports?

10.3.1 J Winstanley reported that LSA does not have off-site parking, but in the event that this should change, LSA will review this issue i.e. a shuttle bus.

- 10.3.2 J Dallimore commented that she had used PUDO five times during the previous month and had found the process very straightforward. Councillor Callaghan suggested that allowing 48 hours for payment would be preferable to 24 hours, as people sometimes forget. It was agreed that Councillor Callaghan would email J Winstanley separately regarding Excel and his proposals, enabling LSA to liaise directly with Excel. **Action: TC: 30/09/26.**
- 10.3.3 Councillor McMullan enquired whether there could be more flexibility in terms of PUDO, i.e. consider paying on arrival/exit rather than when at home/off-site. J Winstanley confirmed that Excel Parking administers PUDO and this is the standard they offer but would be happy to liaise with them to see if there are different options available/planned in the future. **Action: JW 30/10/26.**
- 10.4 J Marchetti reported that in relation to the abusive and threatening noise complainant, the police had visited the individual and since then, the unacceptable behaviour has ceased.
- 10.5 There had been an increase in nighttime activity, and this was attributable to private jet movements.
- 10.6 Following Councillor Garston's query, he was advised that in the Annual Report, there is a table which shows the number of individuals complaining and volume of complaints received and investigated by the Airport over the past five years to February 2026. Additionally, a graph showing noise complaints/complainants against Air Traffic Movements between 2012-26, and night-time noise complaint data since 2017/18 – 2025/26.
- 10.7 Mobile Noise Monitoring Request
- 10.7.1 A request for the Mobile Noise Monitor (MNT) was received in August from a resident living on the Airport boundary close to Charlie taxiway and flying clubs. A copy of the application form had been sent separately to members, and a summary / background information was included in the CEO report.
- 10.7.2 In summary, the resident requested that flying club aircraft use a designated area away from residents' rear gardens for flight checks and engine run-ups. The resident also requested that restrictions on larger aircraft and private jets using Charlie taxiway be extended so that it would not be used between 22:00-08:00. The reason given was that, when windows were open, kerosene fumes entered the bedroom, together with noise from the aircraft.
- 10.7.3 M Laycock advised that light aircraft carry out power checks at the holding point closest to the runway, in accordance with standard practice. He added that, although these checks could potentially be carried out elsewhere on the airfield, doing so would be suboptimal and could present operational difficulties.
- 10.7.4 M Laycock went on to explain that measures had been implemented several years earlier to reduce the use of Charlie taxiway, and the time aircraft were held on C1. He noted that any further restrictions would increase the current workload, as the need for aircraft to backtrack would make operations more complex and introduce an additional element of risk.
- 10.7.5 J Marchetti reported that she had contacted the independent noise specialist, who was already scheduled to carry out a comprehensive ground noise survey in summer 2027, to establish whether the resident's concerns could be included as part of that review.

10.7.6 In relation to summer contours, in accordance with the conditions set out in the Section 106 Planning Agreement, LSA commissions an independent firm of aviation noise specialists to produce noise contours every two years for the summer period (June-September). In this respect, J Marchetti confirmed that the outcome of the summer 2026 review will be available December 2026/January 2027.

10.7.7 Members were asked to consider whether the request for the Mobile Noise Monitoring unit should be deployed immediately, following the busy summer season, or whether the comprehensive ground noise survey scheduled for summer 2027 could adequately capture the issues raised by the resident.

10.7.8 Councillor Bird stated that, based on previous discussions, the resident would probably prefer the review to be carried out during peak operating times. The 2027 ground noise survey would therefore probably be the most suitable option, although this would first need to be confirmed with the resident.

10.7.9 Following detailed discussions, the actions below were agreed:

- i. M Laycock to investigate if light aircraft could potentially carry out their power check on the apron in front of the Vulcan hangar. **Action: ML 30/10/26.**
- ii. J Marchetti to ask the independent noise specialist whether the scope of the summer 2027 survey could specifically include the resident's address as part of the wider study, thereby ensuring that the resident would not be disadvantaged by not having an individual monitor. She would update Councillor Bird and the ACC Chairperson accordingly. **Action: JM 30/10/26.**
- iii. Once J Marchetti has confirmed the outcome, as clarification is expected in November, the Chairperson to update the resident. **Action: MF 23/11/26.**
- iv. The outcome of the ground noise survey, in particular the resident's address, to be discussed at the September 2027 ACC meeting. **Transfer to Points Forward Diary September 2027.**

10.8 Noise Forum key messages mentioned in CEO's report

10.8.1 CNF members have asked if they could attend an ACC meeting as guests.

ACC response: Standing invitation to the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson to attend an ACC meeting annually (November) after higher operational experiences. **Action: MF 01/10/26.**

10.8.2 CNF members would like some input into the process of considering MNT applications.

ACC response: CNF can be advised of applications, but the ACC will consider applications.

10.8.3 LSA will also share information about NPR breaches with the CNF in future.

ACC response: Noted.

10.8.4 Ongoing ask of ACC members to proactively find new representatives for the CNF.

ACC response: This is the responsibility of the CNF Chairperson and its members – not a function of the LSACC.

10.8.5 The CNF Chair will consider ACC members and local authority councillors joining the CNF.

ACC response: Noted. However, this arrangement will not be reciprocal, as the two committees need to remain separate.

10.8.6 LSA to add a CNF membership application form to the LSA webpage to make it easier for residents to apply and to share the link on public forums.

ACC response: Good idea. **Action: JM 23/11/26.**

10.8.7 J Winstanley commented that the Airport did not currently have a significant noise issue. However, as the Airport grows, noise levels will inevitably increase, and the CNF will evolve and expand accordingly, with LSA's support.

10.8.8 Light aircraft circuits were once again the main topic of discussion.

ACC response: Noted.

10.8.9 Z Smith highlighted some principal points in the DfT guidelines for ACCs in relation to transparency, including attendance by members of the public. E McDonnell confirmed that in accordance with the Constitution:

"Members of the public may be allowed by invitation to attend the section scheduled at the start of each meeting to ask a maximum of 2 questions per invite already submitted to the Committee and receive answers to those questions. The questions must be submitted in writing to the Chairman/Secretary, via the Airport website, at least 2 weeks in advance of the date of the meeting. The questioners will only attend for the part of the section of the meeting at during which their question is being considered. This will be limited to maximum 15 minutes of the meeting."

10.8.10 Additionally, E McDonnell commented that the ACC had gone to considerable lengths to hold a 'Community Meeting' for members of the public, enabling them to learn how the committee operated and to gain a better understanding of its purpose and objectives. The meeting was held on 1 September 2021 and attracted only eight attendees, which was disappointing.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Request for mobile noise monitor unit (NMT) to be deployed at 21 Avro Road

See item 10.7 above.

11.2 CAA 2025/26 Annual Airport Accessibility Report

See item 2.2 above.

11.3 Any questions from members of the public or committee members received in advance of meeting

See item 10.3 above.

The following meeting dates for 2026, starting at 14:00 at the Holiday Inn Hotel, to be noted in members' diaries:

Monday 23 November

The meeting ended at 15:35.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

DRAFT