

LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT

Minutes of meeting No. 84 of the Consultative Committee held on Wednesday, 19 November 2014 at 2pm at Southend Airport

Present: Stuart Greengrass	Chairman
David Osborn	Deputy Chairman
Roger Clements	Chief Executive, Stobart Aviation
Jason Ivey (JI)	Operations Director, Southend Airport (AOD)
Jo Marchetti (JM)	Community Affairs Co-ordinator, Southend Airport
Iain Campbell	Ipeco Holdings
Richard Evans	Rochford District Council
Councillor Heather Glynn	Rochford District Council
Nora Goodman	Eastwood & St. Laurence Residents Association
Councillor John Lamb	Southend Borough Council
Councillor Vic Leach	Rochford Hundred Association of Parish Councils
Councillor Graham Longley	Southend Borough Council
Councillor Joan Mockford	Rochford District Council
Cllr D Norman	Southend Borough Council
Zhanine Oates	Essex County Council (Officer)
Cllr Colin Riley	Castle Point Borough Council
Les Sawyer	West Leigh Residents Association
Ron Smithson	Flying Clubs
Councillor Mike Steptoe	Rochford District Council
Derry Thorpe	Southend Trades Council
Kate Willard	Corporate Affairs Director, Stobart Group
George Crowe (GC)	Secretary
Emma McDonnell (EM)	Minutes

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from John Dallaway (Essex Chambers of Commerce), Wendy Harkess (easyJet), Councillor Alf Partridge (Castle Point Borough Council), Councillors Colin Seagers, Ray Howard and Jill Reeves (Essex County Council), Elizabeth Georgeou (officer, Southend Borough Council), and Councillor Peter Elliott (Maldon District Council).

2. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting, in particular Jason Ivey, Operations Director, Southend Airport (AOD) and Kate Willard, Corporate Affairs Director and Company Secretary for Stobart Group, who were attending their first meeting of the Committee. George Crowe, Secretary, explained to the Committee his current health situation and that, as a result, Emma McDonnell would be minuting this and the next Committee meeting, to allow him to focus on his health as a priority. On behalf of the entire Committee, the Chairman wished the Secretary a speedy recovery.

Introductions were made by each member of the Committee for the purpose of new attendees.

3. MEMBERSHIP

G Crowe advised that Wendy Harkess, easyJet, will be commencing maternity leave in early December 2014, and that Nicolas Godfrain will be attending future meetings.

- 3.1 The Secretary provided a current list of members with the agenda for the meeting.
Actioned – remove from minutes.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 20 AUGUST 2014

Compliance with Section 106 Agreement

The Quarterly Section 106 Return for the three-month period to the end of July 2014 was received. It set out the statistics relating to the requirements of the Section 106 agreement entered into in relation to the planning permission for the extension of the runway. The Committee noted that there had been 10 departure movements that had been identified by the Airport as not following the Noise Preferential Routes (NPRs). Of these, 5 had departed from the NPR due to instructions from the air traffic controllers for safety reasons.

Two papers were attached to the Return that:

- gave further information about departing aircraft of over 5.7 tonnes that had been identified as not following the NPRs and advised that infringement notices had been issued in respect of the 5 movements ;
- provided more information about the 5 in respect of which infringement notices had been issued.

During the presentation of the Return members noted that airlines were currently allowed two non-compliances before further action would be taken. The NPRs were no longer new and should be familiar to pilots, particularly to the base airline ones. Consequently, the Committee may wish, in due course to, consider dropping the warning, particularly for Southend based pilots.

- 4.1 The Committee agreed that it was an issue that it would wish to review at the February 2015 meeting.

**PFD
AOD/GC
Feb 2015**

Hand luggage

- 4.2 L Sawyer reminded members the question he raised at the last meeting about who has the final say regarding whether a piece of luggage can be taken into the cabin of an easyJet aircraft as hand luggage. The AOD advised that the item has to be no larger than the specified size and ultimately the airline makes the decision at presentation. JI to reinforce this to airport employees, ensuring that they apply the rule consistently.

Action: JI

5. AIRPORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Committee reviewed the report presented by JI, covering the period August to October 2014:

(a) Performance

The report contained the following performance figures:

Total aviation movements	August	September	October	Total
2014/15	3,377	3,079	2,803	9,259
2013/14	3,217	2,951	2,567	8,494
Commercial movements 2014/2015	1,473	1,624	1,419	4,516
Commercial movements 2013/2014	1,348	1,265	1,174	3,787
Passengers 2014/15	120,832	103,252	118,049	342,133
Passengers 2013/14	118,049	100,904	94,506	313,459

(b) Overview

London Southend Airport (LSA) saw a 9% increase in passenger numbers in Q3 2014 compared to the same quarter in 2013. JI advised that the six new Flybe routes have proved successful overall, however two routes (Antwerp and Maastricht) are not performing quite as well as the others and may be swapped for alternative destinations in summer 2015.

October saw the arrival of a new airline to LSA – Sky Work. This airline (previously operating out of London City Airport) is offering twice daily flights from LSA to Bern, Switzerland. With effect from 1 November 2014, this takes the number of direct destinations from LSA to 17 for the winter season and this will increase again from April 2015 to reflect the summer season schedule.

6. PLANNING ISSUES

The AOD's report included information about the following planning issues:

(a) New Fire Station

A business case and preferred location for a new fire station has been presented to the Airport Board for consideration and this has been agreed in principle. Work could start as early as Q2, 2015.

6.1 JI to clarify whether planning application has been initiated, or whether the plans are being put forward as 'permitted development'. **Post meeting note: JI confirmed that LSA would expect this to be progressed with a GDO consultation under the Airport's permitted development powers for operational buildings.**

In relation to improving the existing fire training ground, JI reported that this will not be progressed at this stage. The proposed venue for training will be at Teesside airport 3-4 times a year. Essex Fire Service will continue with regular liaison visits to ensure all risks are being reviewed and adequate processes are in place.

(b) Passenger Terminal

Work continues on the design of a new bar & restaurant for the Terminal Building airside departure lounge. It is hoped that this new facility will be completed and open for business by Easter 2015.

(c) Footpath

A public planning enquiry was held in July to review LSA's application for the permanent diversion of the footpath that used to cross an airport taxiway. Following the Inquiry, an order was confirmed in October to permanently reroute the footpath along Aviation Way, the associated costs of which will be met by LSA.

6.2 JI to circulate a plan of the revised route for the footpath to all members.

Actioned – see enclosed.

6.3 Concern was raised during the meeting in relation to the rerouted footpath being accessible by motorcycles. It was agreed that JI would clarify the position concerning this specific matter and update the members accordingly.

Post meeting note: In response to the concerns raised by Councillor Heather Glynn regarding motorcycles being able to mount the footpath, LSA confirm that whilst it is not possible to prevent misuse of the new pavement, it will however run alongside the road so there should be no need for motorcycles to use it.

(d) Approach lights – runway 24

The process continues to allow the replacement of three old runway approach light masts with three new ones. The replacement of these lamps will improve safety and will reduce the number of occasions on which aircraft need to divert elsewhere in poor weather. Having failed to reach agreement with the landowner after over a year of negotiation, application had been made to the Secretary of State under the Civil Aviation Act to secure consent, and are still awaiting a decision.

(e) Davies Commission

The Airports Commission published their initial report in December 2013. The majority of the publicity was in relation to the recommendations for future runway capacity with two options at Heathrow and one option at Gatwick shortlisted and a review of the Estuary Airport proposals to determine if they justify being added to the shortlist.

The Davies Commission has subsequently rejected the 'Thames Estuary'/'Boris Island' proposal. LSA will update the ACC on the Davies Commission as it proceeds and considers further expansion at other London airports. A decision is not expected until early June 2015 (post-election).

7. INWARD INVESTMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Included in the AOD's report was information relating to inward investment, employment and training.

(a) Inward investment

The 3 times weekly service to Newquay commenced in May 2014 operated by Flybe. In addition, 6 new destinations to Europe commenced in June and July 2014 operated by Flybe's new franchise partner, Stobart Air. The destinations are Rennes, Groningen and Münster Osnabrück which commenced on 5 June, and Cologne Bonn, Caen Normandie and Antwerp which commenced on 3 July.

LSA continue to talk to a number of investors who would like to secure additional hangarage at the airport.

The long process of application to reinstate controlled airspace continues with the public consultation having closed in December and responses now been reviewed with any possible amendments being considered, taking into consideration the feedback from the consultation prior to a formal application being made to the CAA.

An imminent decision is expected from the CAA on LSA's Air Space Change application.

In the interim period, LSA has had a request to put in place a temporary radio mandatory zone (RMZ) approved by the CAA and this zone became operational in July 2014. Within the RMZ all pilots are required to communicate with the air traffic team.

(b) Employment and training

LSA has commenced a 12 month Customer Service Excellence programme to maintain high customer services levels.

Councillor Graham Longley commented that employment figures were important to the local community and although this data is covered in the Annual Report, detailed information was not included. LSA advised that there is a monthly turnover of staff and to capture such detailed information in the AOD's Quarterly Report could prove difficult due to part-time/full-time equivalents etc.

Appreciating that apprentices are being trained by Prospects College, the Committee enquired whether on-site apprenticeships were taking place. K Willard reported that Stobart has an accredited, high quality training programme called '3P' (People/Performance/Progress) and understood local Council's keenness to have access to such employment and training data.

- 7.1 It was agreed that Airport Management would present at the next meeting a 'one-off' detailed employment and training report, covering LSA/Stobart employment figures, together with information available on training carried out both on and off site. It was clarified that Airport Management could not report employment figures for businesses unconnected with Stobart's operations.

Action:
JI 25/02/15

8. PRESS PACK

The pack of newspaper cuttings relating to the Airport was available and noted.

9. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM, ROCHFORD

Councillor Mike Steptoe confirmed that the Joint Area Action Plan (JAAP) is meeting on Monday 8th December, subject to Government Inspector ruling, in relation to the plan for the development of land adjacent to the Airport as a business park – click on link below to access detailed information:

http://www.rochford.gov.uk/planning/policy/local_development_framework/london_southend_airport/london-southend-airport-and

Councillor Mike Steptoe to provide an update at the next meeting.

Action:
MS 25/02/15

10. COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Included in the AOD's report was information relating to community relations.

(a) Noise

It was noted that the total number of noise complaints for the Q3 period August, September and October, were 142, compared with 137 for the same Q3 period 2013. 16 complaints did not relate to Southend Airport operations and 77 complaints were submitted from the same address in Leigh-on-Sea. The complainants from this address were previously suspended and after a six month period attended a meeting at the airport to discuss their specific concerns. The complainants were strongly opposed to airport expansion at Southend and no resolution could be found. Whilst LSA was unable to satisfy the complainants, it did agree to continue recording their noise complaints but not to respond to them in writing.

(b) Environment

LSA has recently applied to the Environment Agency (EA) for a permit under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. This permit deals with the run off of surface water from the runway which, during the winter months, may contain traces of de-icing chemicals used on the runway to maintain safe operations.

The permit allows surface water to run off into Prittle Brook and Eastwood Brook. As part of an agreed trial with the EA, LSA has been monitoring water quality for the last two years and this data has been used to support the permit application.

Due to the public interest shown in this application, the EA held a public meeting in Rochford to enable any interested persons to discuss the matter further, LSA remains committed to working alongside the EA to ensure water quality continues to meet the required standards.

Detailed discussions took place and Councillor John Lamb asked whether the run-off water from the runway is captured and cleaned prior to it being discharged into either of the Brooks, as concern was raised in relation to the foreshore and the cockle industry in particular.

The AOD reassured members that LSA is working with the EA and has a long-term strategy to have a fully robust environmental monitoring system in place, and this has been submitted for Capital Expenditure approval. In the meantime, weekly monitoring is being carried out and there is a level of control.

Members from Rochford District Council expressed similar concerns in relation to the monitoring of the quality of the water pumped upstream of the Airport into Eastwood Brook when the Rayleigh Weir is flooded, as has happened recently during periods of exceptional rainfall.

- 10.1 JI to arrange for LSA's Environmental specialist to report at the next meeting, to allow members to gain a full understanding of the issues surrounding monitoring and quality control of surface water being distributed to both Brooks from LSA and Rayleigh Weir. **Action: JI 25/02/2015**

11. COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 106 AGREEMENT

The Quarterly Section 106 Return for the three-month period August to end October 2014 was reviewed. Two papers were attached to the Return that:

- gave further information about departing aircraft of over 5.7 tonnes that had been identified as not following the Noise Preferential Routes (NPRs) and advised that infringement notices had been issued in respect of the 6 movements;
- provided more information about the 6 in respect of which infringement notices had been issued.

In a response to a question by the Chairman, it was interesting to note that none of the 142 noise complaints related to the 6 NPRs above.

12. ALLOCATION OF FINES IMPOSED FOR INFRINGEMENTS OF NOISE PREFERENTIAL ROUTES

Jo M confirmed that the £500 to be donated to each of the three charities previously identified (St John Ambulance, South Anglia Youth Team; Unlock a Life for Lockey and Peaceful Place), was available but she required additional information to allow the presentations to take place. It was agreed that Jo M would meet separately after the meeting with those members of the Sub-Committee present (Les Sawyer, Heather Glynn and Mike Steptoe) to finalise the detail. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Congestion at Airport Retail Park

R Smithson enquired if there was any progress in relation to easing congestion when entering the retail park, particularly at weekends, as this affected traffic flow to the airport. Vic Leach also commented that the state of the road immediately in front of the shops was appalling, with the result that vehicles had to travel extremely slowly when navigating the car park which contributed to the congestion.

N Goodman commented that the road markings on the roundabout at the bottom of Warner's Bridge were confusing and, in her opinion, contributed to congestion.

Members were advised that Southend Borough Council had written to the Property Management Company regarding the condition of the road surface, but no progress had been made. M Steptoe commented that there had been rumours of a slip road being created from Warner's Bridge to the back of the car park, but as the area crossed the boundary of two councils (Southend and Rochford), no definitive action had been decided.

- 13.1 M Steptoe to arrange a separate meeting between Southend Borough Council, Rochford District Council, the Retail Park and LSA to discuss this issue and update the Committee at the next meeting in February.

Action:
MS 25/02/2015

(b) Fog

M Steptoe reported that on Saturday 15th November, his flight into LSA was diverted due to fog according to the announcement by the captain, but there was some ambiguity as apparently there was no fog when liaising with LSA.

- 13.2 JI has looked into this and will clarify the situation with M Steptoe separately, however, following the meeting, JI confirmed that the flight diverted due to a medical emergency on-board the inbound flight. **Action: JI**

(c) Recent Incident

J Lamb requested a summary of what took place recently (Wednesday 12th November) involving the light aircraft. JI advised that the light aircraft had taken off from Southend to Belgium, however, Belgium Airport closed and the aircraft returned to Southend. When landing at LSA there was a particular nasty cross wind. The aircraft bounced when landing and came off the runway and landed heavily, coming to a stop in the grass area. There were no injuries and the aircraft self-evacuated – the runway was closed for 90 minutes.

JI confirmed that the emergency plan was immediately instigated, the associated checks were carried out, ie lighting, runway, taxi way etc, and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Branch was contacted and a report submitted.

14. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Members were reminded that it had been agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 25 February 2015 at 2pm.

Further 2015 Committee dates, all at 2pm, are as follows:

- Wednesday, 20 May 2015
- Wednesday, 19 August 2015
- Wednesday, 18 November 2015.

The meeting ended at 3.10pm.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!