

## LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT

### Minutes of meeting No. 90 of the Consultative Committee held on Wednesday, 18 May 2016 at 2pm at Southend Airport

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<b>Present:</b> Stuart Greengrass	Chairman
David Osborn	Deputy Chairman
Jon Horne (JH)	COO, LSA
Jo Marchetti (JM)	Community Affairs Co-ordinator, LSA
Councillor Ray Howard	Essex County Council
John Dallaway	Essex Chambers of Commerce
Councillor Valerie Morgan	Leigh Town Council
Councillor P.G. Elliott	Maldon District Council
Gary Song (Officer)	Maldon District Council
Councillor Mike Steptoe	Rochford District Council
Councillor Mike Lucas-Gill	Rochford District Council
Councillor Mike Webb	Rochford District Council
Councillor Vic Leach	Rochford Hundred Association of Parish Councils
Ron Smithson	Flying Clubs
Derry Thorpe	Southend Trades Council
Les Sawyer	West Leigh Residents Association
George Crowe	Honorary Adviser
Emma McDonnell (EM)	Minutes

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#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Reeves, Cllr Seagers, Cllr Weston, Cllr Lamb, Cllr Davidson, and Kerry Martin.

#### 2. MEMBERSHIP

The Chairman advised that Eastwood & St. Laurence Residents Association had folded, with the result that, Nora Goodman would no longer be attending the Committee meetings.

- 2.1 The Chairman asked members to put forward for consideration any Residents Associations close to the airport that could make a positive contribution. **ALL TO NOTE**
- 2.2 The Chairman to write to Nora Goodman to express his personal thanks, and that of the Committee, for her commitment over the years and wish her well for the future.  
**Actioned – remove from minutes.**

#### 3. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman asked new members to introduce themselves, and he welcomed Cllr Mike Lucas-Gill (Rochford), together with Cllr Mike Webb (Rochford) who was attending in Cllr Weston's absence and Gary Song attending on behalf of Kerry Martin (Maldon). Congratulations were also passed on to Cllr Mike Steptoe in relation to his new position of Deputy Leader of Rochford District Council.

#### 4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING 17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016

The Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were agreed and adopted, with the following amendments highlighted in bold:

##### “11.2 Allocation of fines imposed for infringements of Noise Preferential Routes

*L Sawyer advised that in relation to the charities to receive the donations (£500 each charity) with regard to the fines received for infringements of NPRs, the Sub-Committee put forward the following for approval:*

- *Sunday Club*
- *‘Unlock a Life for Lockety’*
- *Mushroom Theatre Company*
- ***The Dengie Project Trust***

##### 13.3 Airport Website

*Cllr Morgan, Cllr Davidson and Cllr Partridge expressed frustration in relation to the Airport’s website and that it was not ‘user-friendly’ in terms of easily identifying the destinations to which a passenger can fly. JH explained that there was a ‘Destination and Airlines’ tab which provides the user with a drop-down list of all the destinations which LSA flies to, together with the airline options.”*

#### 5. AIRPORT DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The Committee reviewed the report prepared by JH, covering the period February to April 2016:

##### (a) Performance

The report contained the following performance figures:

Total aviation movements	February	March	April	Total
2015/16	1,564	1,851	2,174	5,589
2014/15	2,039	2,213	2,323	6,575
Commercial movements 2015/2016	820	912	946	2,678
Commercial movements 2014/2015	895	953	912	2,760
Passengers 2015/16	62,403	69,557	75,941	207,901
Passengers 2014/15	63,317	74,546	74,514	212,377

##### (b) Overview

JH reported that for the period passenger numbers were just over 2% down on the same three months of 2015. The shortfall was largely during the month of March as February recorded just 900 fewer passengers whilst April was some 1400 passengers up on 2015. The differences are largely attributable to the difference in timing of easyJet’s ramping up of its schedule for the beginning of the summer period, which was slightly later this year than last.

Slovenian Airline, Sea Air is programmed to commence twice daily services to Munich in May operated by a Boeing 737 300 aircraft. On Thursdays and Sundays the service will also connect onto Osijek in Croatia. Details of the Sea Air can be found on their website: [www.sea-air.info](http://www.sea-air.info)

This has been a busy period for route development activities, with the LSA team attending the 'Connect' event in Vilnius 12<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> March and also the 'Routes Europe' conference in Krakow 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> April. Meetings were held and presentations made to some 25 airlines, plus a number of airports as well. These have generated a number of follow-up meetings with airlines, which will take place in the coming weeks.

On April 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> JH attended the European Regions Airlines Association conference in Prague, where he appeared on an industry panel as part of the conference. This also provided a further opportunity to promote potential route opportunities to airlines.

Well developed and detailed discussions are also ongoing with a number of airlines.

JH also explained that Lee Lawrence had been appointed as Head of Commercial & Marketing, responsible for non-aviation activities, ie Lounges, advertising within Terminal building etc, and is driving this part of the business forward.

## 6. PLANNING ISSUES

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

- (a) Standard Instrument Departures and Standard Approach Routings (SIDs & STARs) Airspace Change Proposal (ACP)

JH advised that consultation is ongoing and the document had been circulated to local authorities, with the process closing at the end of May. Members commented that they had not been involved in this consultation process, therefore, it was agreed that all LSACC members would be added to the mailing list to ensure they have sight of the document as soon as possible.

JH and Sam Petrie met immediately following the meeting with Cllr Elliott and Gary Song so they could graphically explain the changes that were taking place. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

JH emphasised to members that he is happy to explain/demonstrate any issues relating to the Airport to ensure a proper understanding, and members could contact him at any time. **ALL TO NOTE**

6.1 JM to ensure all members receive a copy of the consultation document urgently. **JM URGENT**

6.2 Sam Petrie, Airport Development Coordinator, LSA, to attend the next ACC meeting and provide an update. **JM/SP 31/08/16**

- (b) New Fire Station

JH confirmed that a new proposal was being considered to develop a new Fire Station in the same vicinity as the current one. Since the original plans and location adjacent to the control tower were abandoned, an alternative location had been sought from where the Fire Service could meet the required response times to the furthest points of the airfield.

6.3 JH to provide update at next meeting. **JH 31/08/16**

(c) Approach lights – runway 24

This matter is ongoing and an update will be provided when there are developments.

**7. INWARD INVESTMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

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

(a) Inward investment

Heads of Terms have been signed with Jota Aviation for a lease of Bay 1 of the former ATC Lasham hangar. This development follows the acquisition of a second RJ85 aircraft by Jota. Discussions continue with a number of other potential tenants for the remaining hangar space.

JH reported that Inflight Southend Ltd will soon be closing the aircraft maintenance (repairs in hangars) part of their business, instead directing their focus on 'component overhaul'. As a result, there will be some loss of employment, however, their intention is to expand their workshop facility, which may offset some of the reductions..

JH commented that the majority of aircraft maintenance is carried out in Eastern Europe due to economic reasons, but the Airport continues to target companies to bring these special skill sets back locally to support airport growth in moving forward.

(b) Employment and training

Seventeen students are working with LSA until the end of the summer. They are all studying either Aviation or Travel & Tourism and are part of the 'Here to Help Student Volunteer Program'. They have been trained and are now competent to support in two main areas – 'Before Security Presentation' helping passengers with liquid requirements and other security queries and secondly, 'Prior to Check-in and at Arrivals' helping customers with onward travel or where to go for Departures/bag drop and any other such questions. The students enable an additional level of customer care to be delivered, whilst providing them with practical experience of working in the airport environment. Two students from last year's cohort, have been successful in securing jobs with LSA's Front of House Team and will be joining this summer.

**8. PRESS PACK**

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

**9. COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

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

(a) Noise

The total number of noise complaints for the Q1 period February, March and April 2016 was 64 (this excludes complaints for which no aircraft could be found to be operating at the time of the complaint and one which related to a police helicopter that did not operate to or from the airport). This compares to 45 for the same Q1 period ending April 2015. Whilst the total number of complaints is higher, this may be explained by the difference in complaints submitted from the regular complainants from Leigh-on-Sea who submitted a lower than average number of complaints in March 2015 – excluding complaints from this particular address, the totals are 27 for Q1/2015 compared to 33 for Q1/2016. Just 9 complaints related to aircraft operating to/from the airport during the agreed night time period.

31 of the 64 complaints (48%) were submitted from the same address in Leigh-on-Sea (this excludes 6 complaints that did not match any LSA aircraft operations). The Committee will recall that as previously agreed, the Airport will continue to log the complaints from this address, but no further response is made to the complainants having exhausted all reasonable means to address their concerns.

All of the complaints were investigated and the aircrafts in question were found to have been operating within agreed controls.

(b) Environment

JH reported that the design work for the surface water drainage system is expected to be completed within the next couple of weeks enabling the preparation for an application to the Environment Agency.

JH confirmed that the submission will be ready to be sent to the EA in mid-June, which will then trigger a 13 week public consultation process and local authorities will be kept up-to-date accordingly.

The Chairman emphasised to the Committee that the application is an extremely technical document and relevant departments within local authorities will have the opportunity to review the application. The Chairman explained that as the next Committee meeting falls within the 13 week consultation period, members will be provided with an update by Marc Taylor.

- 9.1 Marc Taylor, Head of Asset Management, Southend Airport, to provide an update to the Committee at the next meeting. **JM/MT  
31/08/16**

## 10. COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 106 AGREEMENT

The Quarterly Section 106 Return for the three-month period February to April 2016 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 2 movements;
- provided more information about the aircrafts concerned in respect of which infringement notices had been issued.

Cllr Steptoe asked whether ‘enquiries’ could be categorised as such, as opposed to ‘complaints’ as this would prevent inflating the complaint figures. JM advised that to prevent incorrectly categorising a concern from the public, it would be prudent to continue to categorise all concerns as ‘complaints’ as this demonstrates that the Airport is processing all complaints/enquiries correctly and that a detailed investigation is carried out.

- 10.1 JM confirmed that a meeting had been scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> June with Christine Lyons in relation to NPRs to ensure a full understanding of how this operates at LSA.  
**Remove from minutes.**

## 11. ROADWORKS CLOSE TO AIRPORT

JH informed the meeting that pedestrian crossing points had been completed, and that in relation to widening the access road to LSA by the small roundabout adjacent to the retail park, they were waiting for the services beneath the footway close to the hotel to be relocated before works could commence. JH to provide update at next meeting.

**JH**  
**31/08/16**

## 12. SURFACE IMPACT ACCESS ROUTES

Cllr Howard again reiterated the Council's desperate concerns in relation to improving the infrastructure to/from Southend, Rochford and the airport. Cllr Howard confirmed that £17 million had been allocated to make improvements at the Fairglen Interchange but unless further infrastructure enhancements are to be made, this area of Essex would become gridlocked with negative consequences for the Airport.

12.1 JH confirmed that he would look again at representation from LSA at future highways meetings. JH to provide an update at the next Committee meeting.

**JH**  
**31/08/16**

## 13. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

JM provided all members with a copy of the Draft Annual Report (which now includes easy to read percentage figures) to take away with them for review.

To summarise specific points covered when reviewing the Report during the meeting:

- Development
- Airport surface access strategy
- Employment
- Quiet ground operations
- Noise
- Air quality
- Carbon management
- Air traffic movement controls
- Departures
- Charity and Community

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman expressed sincere thanks to JM for the amount of work invested in producing the draft report, which is an extremely detailed and professional document.

13.1 Any comments on the draft Report are to be returned to JM by Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016.

**ALL**  
**01/06/16**

13.2 JM to progress if possible Cllr Steptoe's comments in relation to graphs showing different symbols to accommodate any individuals who are colour blind.

**JM TO**  
**NOTE**

## 14. FUNCTIONALITY OF AIRPORT WEBSITE

Further to previous frustrations expressed by Cllr Morgan, Cllr Davidson and Cllr Partridge in relation to the Airport's website and that it was not 'user-friendly' in terms of easily identifying the destinations to which a passenger can fly, JH provided a 'live' demonstration to members.

- 14.1 Following detailed discussions, it was agreed JM would pass on the suggestion to the web designer, that the 'Flight Information' tab at the top on the Home page be amended to read 'Flight Information/Destinations'. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

Les Sawyer raised the issue again relating to airfare pricing being more expensive to fly from Spain to LSA as opposed to LGW. JH reiterated that air fares are outside the control of the Airport management but this situation was typical 'supply and demand' market. To summarise, when flights are first made available, fares start at comparable prices, but as flights become more popular and as a consequence seats start to fill, closer to departure dates airfares increase as the pricing is a dynamic process.

The Chairman supported JH's comments by stating that cost also very much depended on the date of travel (ie outside of the school holidays is usually cheaper) and the day on which you travel.

JH highlighted that on the Airport's Home page, it announces that LSA is the sponsor of this year's Leigh Folk Festival in June.

## 15. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING, 17 FEBRUARY 2016

- 15.1 Allocation of fines imposed for infringements of Noise Preferential Routes

A formal presentation took place with the four charities previously nominated to receive donations (£500 each charity) with regard to the fines received for infringements of NPRs.

JM commented that it was an emotional day but it provided the opportunity for all the charities to exchange contacts/ideas etc in relation to their respective charity's aims/objectives.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman expressed sincere appreciation to the Sub-Committee for their involvement, and also thanked JH and JM for their time on the day itself. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

## 16. POINTS FORWARD DIARY (FROM MINUTES 19 AUGUST 2015)

- 16.1 Compliance with Section 106 Agreement

As previously minuted, the annual review of the processes in place in relation to managing flights which depart outside the Noise Preferential Routes (NPRs) was undertaken. The meeting was unanimous in that they considered this process was working well, ie infringement notices issued for 1st and 2nd offences, with a £500 fine for a 3rd offence. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the current system was working adequately and that the process outlined above should be reviewed again in a year's time. **Transfer to Points Forward Diary February 2017.**

**PFD  
Feb/17**

## 17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 17.1 Stobart Group Annual Results

JH summarised the principal progress in the five areas of the business:

- |                        |   |  |
|------------------------|---|--|
| Stobart Energy         | - | Secured long-term customer contracts of over 2m tonnes pa.   |
| Stobart Aviation       | - | Load factors and yields improving; momentum built with new airline operators and delivered customer service excellence |
| Stobart Rail           | - | Strong order book for future and external works with value of circa £68 million  |
| Stobart Infrastructure | - | Significant value added at Speke property  |
| Stobart Investments    | - | Dividend received from Propius of £4.3 million   |

JH went on to explain there is a positive performance across the Group:

#### **Increased Group Turnover**

- Increase of £10.1 million (8.6%) to £126.7 million

#### **Solid underlying Group profitability**

- Underlying EBITDA of £30 million (+69.8%)

#### **Stobart Aviation**

Underlying EBITDA: 2016 – £2.3 million / 2015 £1.4 million

### 17.2 Early/late coach service

JH reported that until the issue of early and late trains can be resolved with the rail operators, the Airport has negotiated an agreement with National Express, to run an early and late coach service to and from Victoria Coach Station in Central London, calling at Liverpool Street and Stratford stations. This will run seven days a week from 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016. This supplements the last train leaving for London at 23:05 and the first train arriving at Southend Airport at 06:30.

## 18. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS IN 2016

The next Committee dates, all at 2pm, are as follows

- **Wednesday, 31 August** (rearranged from Wednesday, 17 August)
- Wednesday, 16 November

**The meeting ended at 3.45pm.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_