

LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT

Minutes of meeting No. 95 of the Consultative Committee held on Wednesday, 16 August 2017 at 2pm at Southend Airport

Present: Stuart Greengrass	Chairman
Jon Horne (JH) (part-time)	COO, LSA
Jo Marchetti (JM)	Community Affairs Co-ordinator, LSA
Sam Petrie	Project Manager, LSA
David Osborn	Deputy Chairman
Councillor Ray Howard	Castle Point Borough Council
Mark Evershed (Officer)	Castle Point Borough Council
Councillor Valerie Morgan	Leigh Town Council
Councillor Peter Elliott	Maldon District Council
David Burrows (Officer)	Maldon District Council
Martin Howlett (Officer)	Rochford District Council
Councillor Mike Lucas-Gill	Rochford District Council
Councillor Ian Ward	Rochford District Council
Councillor Arthur Williams	Rochford District Council
Councillor Meg Davidson	Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
Ron Smithson	Southend Flying Clubs
Les Sawyer	West Leigh Residents Association
Emma McDonnell (EM)	Minutes

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Reeves, Councillor Partridge, Councillor Lamb, Councillor Steptoe, Andy Lewis, Derry Thorpe and Peter Geraghty.

2. MEMBERSHIP AND CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed those members and representatives attending for the first time and in this respect, David Burrows, Economic Development Project & Partnerships Manager at Maldon District Council introduced himself, confirming that he would be a future officer on the Committee.

The Chairman congratulated Councillor Ray Howard on being awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his long service in local government and the community on Canvey, an accolade which is wholly deserved. Cllr Howard commented that he was extremely honoured to receive the award and thanked the Committee for their kind words.

The Chairman advised that Rochford Parish Council has requested to be a representative on the LSACC. The Chairman highlighted that Rochford Hundred Association of Local Councils is represented on the Airport Consultative Committee, and the Councillor attending the LSACC in this capacity is Councillor John Stanton, who is from Rochford Parish Council. With this background and following a detailed discussion, it was agreed to decline this request.

2.1 The Chairman to formally notify the Clerk of Rochford Parish Council the outcome of these discussions. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

2.2 Cllr Williams to remove 'Southend Airport Liaison Committee' from the home page of Rochford Parish Council's website under the banner 'These Outside Bodies are represented by Councillors and/or the Parish Clerk', as this is **A WILLIAMS 30/08/17** incorrect.

2.3 JH recommended JOTA Aviation as an Airport business tenant to replace AQMS. The meeting agreed to this proposal and for the Chairman to formally write to Mike Sessions at JOTA with an invitation to attend the next meeting and become a member of the committee. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

2.4 JH reported that he had spoken with Kate Willard, Chair of Thames Gateway South Essex (TGSE) who advised that the next Board Meeting is 5th September, at which they will discuss future representation on the LSACC and make recommendations to LSA, who in turn will put forward the proposal to the LSACC at an appropriate time in the future.

**JH
15/11/17**

2.5 JH confirmed that Jason Thorn from UK Border Force (M Holmes' replacement on the Committee) was on holiday, therefore, JH will invite Mr Thorn to provide a short presentation at the next meeting in November.

**JH
15/11/17**

2.6 JH advised that in relation to a suitable replacement regarding the vacant position held by Essex Chambers of Commerce, Denise Rossiter had expressed an interest. The meeting agreed for the Chairman to formally write to Ms Rossiter with an invitation to attend the next meeting and become a member of the committee. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING 17 MAY 2017

The Minutes of 17th May 2017 were agreed and adopted with no amendments required.

4. AIRPORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JH explained that a major fire had occurred on the north side of the Airport but fortunately, no one had been injured and airport operations continue as normal. His expectation is that there is severe damage to a hanger and his presence was required at the location of concern, therefore, the Committee reviewed the report prepared by JH, covering the period May to July 2017, at the start of the meeting to allow JH to attend the scene of the fire:

(a) Performance

The report contained the following performance figures:

Total aviation movements	May	June	July	Total
2017/18	2,783	2,608	2,748	8,139
2016/17	2,385	2,415	2,617	7,417
Commercial movements 2017/2018	1,290	1,338	1,439	4,067
Commercial movements 2016/2017	1,071	1,074	1,243	3,388
Passengers 2017/18	100,061	107,493	120,030	327,584
Passengers 2016/17	78,486	82,820	89,687	250,993

(b) Overview

JH reported that the quarter since the last meeting of the committee, has seen passenger numbers rise month on month, with May showing an increase of 27.5%, June 29.8% and July 33.8%. The overall growth in passenger numbers for the three months to July 2017 was 30.5%. The most significant contributor to this growth was the new services operated by Flybe franchise with Stobart Air.

The first of eleven new routes started at the beginning of May and the other routes were gradually added over the course of the month. Performance on the routes has gradually improved as the impact of marketing, including Sky TV, in the region rolled out. The services were initially operated with one 118 seat Embraer 195 jet and a wet leased 98 seat RJ85 jet of Southend based carrier Jota Aviation. The arrangement with Jota was an interim one, until an additional Embraer 195 could be sourced and this aircraft came into service on 1st August.

easyJet is also performing well, with passenger numbers ahead of last year.

Thomson's charter series to Palma is also performing exceptionally well, with two weekly charter flights this summer, increased from one a week in previous years. The flights operate on Tuesdays and Saturdays and with a larger Airbus aircraft operating the Tuesday flight, passenger numbers have increased by 111% in comparison to last year.

(c) New Airline Business

JH reported that new routes have already been announced for this winter season that begin with the time change at the end of October. The following new destinations and services have been announced:

easyJet	Malta 2 x weekly
Flybe/Stobart Air	Dublin up to 3 x daily
	Manchester up to 3 x daily
	Glasgow up to 3 x daily

Powdair	Sion (Switzerland) 2 x weekly from 14 December 2017 to 29 April 2018
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Work also continues to develop interest from other operators to start new services from London Southend. The Airport is targeting a number of significant airlines for next summer and negotiations are ongoing at this time.

JH commented that this increase in services will bring the number of based aircraft at LSA to seven this winter, three easyJet and four Flybe/Stobart Air.

Cllr Ward enquired what LSA is doing in terms of providing package holidays? JH confirmed that the airport already has the Thomson (Palma) flights and skiing related destination flights in the winter months, but due to the size of aircraft routinely used for package holidays, LSA will not be a major player in this area. Cllr Ward went on to comment that 'Kirbys' (based in Rochford) is a popular tour operator, albeit synonymous with coach tours, however, a synergy between LSA and Kirby could be beneficial for both parties.

4.1 JH to arrange for LSA's commercial/PR department to liaise with Kirbys and provide update at next meeting. **JH**
15/11/17

(d) Business Aviation

JH explained that a new initiative to develop LSA's Business Aviation Operation has been launched. This has been renamed as the 'Stobart Executive Jet Centre' and Steve Grimes has been appointed as its Managing Director. Steve started out with British Airways before leaving to run a regional airline in Australia. After returning to the UK, Steve joined Servisair, heading-up the commercial side. Following its successful floatation, Steve was approached by Mohammed al Fayed to build the best business aviation company in the world, Harrods Aviation, where he worked for 10 years. He then became CEO of Ocean Sky another FBO at Luton and was more recently Managing Director of Marc Restaurant Group.

Steve's focus will be to develop the 'Stobart Executive Jet Centre' at LSA and with it the attendant support services of aircraft engineering and servicing. LSA is well situated to capture this traffic as other London Airports have little or no capacity to accommodate it. To date, LSA has been able to host aircraft for key business players in our region such as Dubai Ports (DP World) and it is hoped that this development will increase the attraction of this location and the region.

(e) Operations

JH confirmed that the airfield pavement works are now largely complete with only some minor works associated with airfield lighting still to be finalised. Overall, the project has been a great success and approximately one thousand metres of pavement replaced in record time. This now enables the unrestricted use of taxiways and aprons, which had in some cases, previously deteriorated to a point where restrictions had to be imposed. This now returns almost all of the airport's original infrastructure to new condition.

JH expressed his appreciation to S Petrie for project managing these works.

The security central search project has also been completed, with a fourth lane added and new equipment in place to ensure the airport can deliver high levels of facilitation, whilst ensuring that a robust and compliant security operation is maintained.

Work to extend Long Stay 2 Car Park by 650 spaces is ongoing and this is expected to be completed in September.

The Vulcan Restoration Trust, along with the Vulcan, have relocated to Hangars 5 and 6. The hangars were previously occupied by ATC (Lasham) Ltd, but have been empty since the collapse of their business in late 2015. These hangars now provide undercover storage for the aircraft and a larger base in which the Trust to operate. Arrangements have been put in place to ensure the Trust can continue to undertake its fundraising activities and public open days in their new location.

(f) Terminal Commercial Developments

Southend based Restaurant Group Bourgee, opened its new Champagne Bar in the departure lounge on 23rd May. The bar, which serves champagne and Tapas, has proved to be popular with travellers and has extended the range of catering options available at the airport.

WHSmith has also developed its offering, with an extension of its original store, which has taken part of the space formerly occupied by LSA's own Duty Free Shop. The extended and refurbished store now boasts a 'technology section' and an increased range of pharmacy products.

4.2 Les Sawyer commented that when using the Airport recently, he was unable to see any warning notices to travellers advising that if too much alcohol is consumed, then they could be refused to board their flight. S Petrie confirmed she would check visibility of these notices and update Mr Sawyer accordingly. **SP**

25/08/17

5. PLANNING ISSUES

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

(a) Future Projects

Outline design work has begun to remodel the baggage make-up area at the end of the terminal behind check-in, as this is needed to accommodate upgraded security equipment (Standard 3), which the airport is required, by regulation, to provide by September 2018.

Similarly, design work to examine the other end of the terminal and the baggage reclaim facility is also underway. Provision of adequate facilities is essential to maintain the Airport's high service standard.

JH provided a brief PowerPoint presentation to illustrate to the Committee the above concepts.

6. INWARD INVESTMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

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

(a) Inward investment

Hangars 5 and 6 now taken by the Vulcan Restoration Trust and Hangars 2 and 3 will be used as part of the Executive Jet Centre operation.

(b) Employment and training

JH explained briefly that current employment for LSACL, as at the end of July, was 322, up 48 over the previous year.

A new project is underway, 'Stobart Aviation Skills Hub' (SASH). JH explained that this is a partnership project led by Stobart Group at London Southend Airport, partnered by Southend Borough Council, South Essex College, Liverpool City College and Harper Co. The proposition is a post age 16 centre of excellence for training and education in aviation related subjects, located in the old terminal building at the airport. The Hub will cover the widest possible range of aviation related skills with an initial focus on 'behind the scenes' operations where there is a dearth of resource. Stobart is developing market knowledge in this area of operations, expanding into providing services in that area and has confirmed that there is demand for such training provision.

Early indicative figures for student numbers are now being used to baseline the expected number of people using SASH at any one time and to map this across to the potential layout and capacity of the old terminal accommodation. This is with a view to opening in January 2018, with the first full cohort starting September 2018 and a link with the free school from September 2019 when it is intended to open.

There are multiple pieces of work currently underway to enable this timetable, including:

- Understanding education funding which could be accessed to support the skills delivery at different levels, in different formats and different subjects;
- Exploring funding sources which could fund the changes to the old terminal necessary to create an outstanding skills hub;
- Baselineing student numbers in parallel with designing refurbishment requirements;
- Scoping qualifications in terms of those already available, where there's scope to flex to meet business needs, and where new frameworks, curricula and material are needed;
- A range of considerations relating to the 'look and feel' and identity of the hub so that not only are basic needs met, but so that a real pride in the training they do there and the work they go on to do is engendered, stemming from the Stobart brand.

The project is moving at pace and has an identified demand but there are a number of areas which would benefit from support. The opportunities that this skills hub will afford far outweigh the challenges of getting it up and running. It will offer a direct route for people of all ages looking to work in the aviation sector with an education package scoped by industry, therefore equipping them with the necessary skills to secure employment. It will enable staff in the sector to upskill, diversify their knowledge and continue their professional development – education and training is often focussed on school age students, but this will provide opportunities to those already in work and the increasing need to invest in their development as people live and work longer.

6.1 Cllr Ward reported that Sweyne Park School has overcome 97 teams to become the national champions of the UK Youth Rocketry Competition and with this background, **I WARD** will encourage them to contact LSA. **25/08/17**

7. PRESS PACK

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

8. COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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

(a) Noise

The total number of noise complaints for the Q2 period May, June and July 2017, was 129 (this excludes complaints for which no aircraft could be found to be operating at the time of the complaint). This compares to 133 for the same Q2 period ending July 2016. 27 complaints related to aircraft operating to/from the airport during the agreed night-time period.

78 complaints were submitted from the same address in Leigh-on-Sea (this includes 13 complaints that did not match any LSA aircraft operations). Even when these are excluded, the complaints from this one address, account for half of all complaints. For the same period in the prior year, 43% of the 133 complaints came from this one address.

7 complaints related to BA training. Over the three-month Q2 period, BA carried out training on 4 separate days, only 1 of which was at the weekend (Saturday 4th July). Wherever possible, ATC instigated an irregular pattern of circuits and the height at which the circuits were flown.

BA training May, June & July 2017

Date	Aircraft reg	Aircraft type	Runway	Start time (zulu)	Finish time (zulu)	Circuits	Complaints
09/05/2017	GLCYD	E170	05	1055	1214	7	
13/05/2017	GLCYD	E170	23	1200	1245	5	3
13/05/2017	GLCYD	E170	23	1329	1416	7	
17/05/2017	GLCYD	E170	05	1045	1116	3	1
17/05/2017	GLCYD	E170	05	1146	1221	4	
04/07/2017	GLCYM	E190	23	1340	1419	5	
04/07/2017	GLCYM	E190	23	1444	1540	5	3

All complaints for the quarter period were investigated and the aircraft in question were found to have been operating within agreed controls.

Cllr Ward confirmed that due to being given advance notice of BA training, they were able to publish the dates on the council's website which was extremely useful in advising the community.

The Chairman thanked JM for such a detailed and thorough report.

9. COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 106 AGREEMENT

The Quarterly Section 106 Return for the three-month period May to July 2017 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.

In response to a question from the Chairman, JM advised ACC members that neither of the aircraft which deviated from the Noise Preference Route had resulted in a complaint to LSA.

10. AIRSPACE CHANGE PROPOSAL (ACP)

(a) Area Navigation (RNAV) Approach Procedures

Further to the detailed presentation provided by Sam Petrie, Project Manager, LSA, at the previous Committee meeting in relation to the process to introduce RNAV Approach Procedures, Sam was available for any comments following the publication of the consultation document launched on 6th June 2017 – access to this was circulated by e-mail to all members on 7th June. The consultation concludes on 13th September 2017.

The RNAV approaches would be implemented alongside the Instrument Landing System (ILS), not as a replacement procedure. Sam summarised the operations of an ILS, i.e. a beam of information that the aircraft intercepts, and Area Navigation (RNAV), i.e. GPS system, aircraft following waypoints in the sky.

Sam also confirmed that the RNAV approaches have been structured over least populated areas as much as possible, whilst following the required design criteria. Sam reassured the committee that the procedures are coded and combined with the flight management system, an ‘outsider’ being successful in ‘hacking’ the RNAV system to cause a catastrophic incident was highly unlikely. A robust safety case is also developed for the procedures to ensure that all hazards are identified and mitigated.

The Chairman thanked Sam for the detailed explanation on the current status and the following actions were agreed:

10.1 The Chairman to formally respond to the consultation document, confirming that the LSACC was supportive of these changes, and especially as the greater precision in the aircraft approach will have the additional benefit of reducing the spread and impact of noise pollution on the local community. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

10.2 All members to encourage their parish/district/borough/county councils to respond and when do so, to confirm in what capacity they are replying.

**ALL
TO NOTE**

10.3 Cllr Elliott advised that the consultation document had reignited the debate between residents in Burnham and, as a result, they are looking to commissioning the services of an expert to look at these procedures. Cllr Elliott has reassured residents that these procedures will not alter the existing flight paths. It was agreed that Cllr Elliott and Sam Petrie would liaise separately to arrange for relevant representation from Burnham to attend LSA in early September to allow a detailed presentation to be provided to help residents fully understand the procedures.

**P ELLIOTT/
SP
08/09/17**

11. SHAPING AVIATION – LAUNCH OF GOVERNMENT’S NEW STRATEGY UP TO 2050 AND BEYOND

In JH’s absence, JM advised that on 21st July 2017, the Government launched the process to develop a new aviation strategy, with the publication of a call for evidence document. The purpose of this exercise is to build on the success of this important sector, recognising its vital role in driving economic growth, boosting economic activity and delivering the government’s vision to build a global Britain that is outward-looking.

The new strategy will look beyond a new runway at Heathrow, which has dominated aviation policy in recent years, and look at how the whole sector might respond to a range of technological, security, environmental and customer service challenges. It also looks at how the Government can support jobs and economic growth throughout the whole of the UK. The new strategy includes looking closely at how we can make best use of existing capacity at airports throughout the UK, and making sure transport links to and from these airports meet the needs of passengers.

The strategy has one headline aim, supported by six more specific objectives: ‘To achieve a safe, secure and sustainable aviation sector that meets the needs of consumers and of a global, outward-looking Britain.’

The phased process is set out in a consultation document and there will be a series of discussion papers over the next few months leading up to the publication of a new aviation strategy at the end of 2018.

- 11.1 E McDonnell to forward the link to this consultation document to all LSACC members – closing date is 13th October 2017. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

12. FINAL ANNUAL REPORT

JM confirmed that E McDonnell had proof-read the Draft Annual Report and this was then finalised and published. However, JM confirmed that on page 49 there was a printing error (numbers had not been updated from previous year) but all copies in the public domain have been amended accordingly. **Remove from minutes.**

13. POINTS FORWARD DIARY: ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE PROCESS IN PLACE TO MANAGE FLIGHTS DEPARTING OUTSIDE THE NPRs

- 13.1 Compliance with Section 106 Agreement

The annual review of the processes in place in relation to managing flights which depart outside the Noise Preferential Routes (NPRs) was undertaken. The Chairman asked JM about the proportion of NPR non-compliance and this highlighted that out of approximately 30,000 aircraft movements, there had been 14 non-compliances, all of which were crews who had not flown out of LSA previously. In the previous 12-month reporting period it had not been necessary to fine any operator for repeat transgressions and no complaints had been received for any of the offending aircraft.

Following detailed discussion on the report and NPR action protocol, the 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. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the current system was working adequately, and is the right structure in going forward with the new routes, and that the process outlined above should be reviewed again, including the fine levels in 12 months. **Transfer to Points Forward Diary February 2018.** **PFD Feb/18**

14. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

14.1 JM to report back to Cllr John Stanton the outcome of the investigation in relation to the noisy aircraft manoeuvre that took place on 17th May at 13:00. **Actioned – remove from minutes.**

14.2 JH commented that the invitation to Roger Hirst, Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex, to visit and tour the Airport would be more appropriate once all the current improvement works are completed. **Points Forward Diary November meeting.** **JH 15/11/17**

14.3 Tour of Airport

JM and JH to liaise separately and put forward to E McDonnell some suggested dates, to allow these to be passed on to ACC members. **JH/JM 11/09/17**

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting is **Wednesday 15th November** at 2pm

At the November forum, the dates for the 2018 meetings will be put forward.

The meeting ended at 4.00pm.

Signed _____ Date: _____