

**Minutes of the meeting of the London City Airport Consultative Committee  
held on 28 November 2023, at the Good Hotel, London**

**Present:** George Masters (Secretary), Duncan Alexander (Chair), Duncan Alyes (LBN), Joy Caron-Canter (RDLAC), David Conroy (local resident), Cllr Ann Easter (LBN), Stephen Pick (London Chamber), John Stewart (HACAN East), John Shaw (Passenger Rep), Tim Walker (Forest Hill Society), Glynis Webb (Vice-Chair).

**In attendance from LCY:** Robert Sinclair, Francesca Pacifico, Tim Halley, Tim Smith.

**Other attendees:** Jackie Laidler, Rita and John Morris and John Doherty (Local Residents)

**Apologies:** Cllr Sarah Ruiz (LBN), Cllr James Asser (LBN), Cllr Andy Dourmouh (LB Bexley)

### **1. Minutes**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting with the amendment agreed ahead of the meeting.

### **2. CEO Update**

The Chair invited Robert Sinclair (RS) to update the committee. RS stated that the airport was gearing up for the winter season and stated that the post COVID-19 recovery continues with passenger numbers at 70% of pre-pandemic levels. However, RS stated that business travel had not recovered to the same extent.

RS stated that the airport's customer service satisfaction levels were world class with a Net promoter Score of 70.. RS stated that the departure lounge project was going well, with new restaurants opening on 7 December. The project would be finalised in April/May 2024. RS stated that the airport's community engagement had been extensive in last few months, with the airport's STEM in aviation programme taking place with 500 school students across London. The focus of the event was Sustainable Aviation Fuel and green hydrogen use.

RS stated that the airport's meet the buyer event was upcoming, and that airport staff were contributing to the annual 12 days of giving.

The Chair asked RS to inform the committee about his departure from the airport to begin work as the CEO of HS1. RS stated that he would be in post until the end of January 2024 and that the Chairman would be remaining the same. RS assured the committee that his departure would not impact on the running of the airport.

Members thanked RS for his support to the committee.

Members asked RS about the use of SAF at the airport, noting in the news there had been the first transatlantic flight using SAF. RS stated this was good news and that the airport was looking to increase the use of SAF, especially in private planes.

### **3. Update on the airport's application to change its existing planning permission**

The Chair invited Tim Halley (TM) to update on the airport's planning application which had been submitted to London Borough of Newham Council (LBN).

TH stated that the airport had appealed to the planning inspectorate on London Borough of Newham's decision to not approve the airport's recent planning application. The inquiry was due to begin on 5 December and would likely last around 2/3 weeks. The planning inspector would then make a recommendation on the appeal which will then be sent to the Secretaries of State for Transport and Communities for decision. TH stated that the airport expected a decision in Q1 2024.

TH stated that members of the community would be given an opportunity to speak at the inquiry, and that the day where this evidence would be heard was to be determined – however, it could potentially be on the first day.

Members noted that the airport had informed the local community about the inquiry through letter drops but stated that the language in the letters needed more thought. At present members felt the letters were too business-like and were not clear. Members requested that for future communication to the local community, that the airport should use members of the committee as sounding boards.

#### **4. Airport Reports**

The Chair advised that the Airport reports would not be read out in full during the meeting, rather they will be taken as read. The Chair would simply open the floor to questions.

- **Airspace and Environment**

The Chair invited Francesca Pacifico to update the committee.

FP stated that an independent aircraft noise survey report on the impact of new aircraft on noise levels had been distributed to the committee. This report showed decreases in noise on arrival and departure, with a more pronounced decrease on departures in comparison to current generation aircraft. Members asked whether the report would be used by the airport as evidence in the planning inquiry. TH stated that it was not going to be submitted by the airport to the inquiry, but that the airport could use its findings, as could local residents.

The committee then discussed airspace modernisation, and the recent lack of progress. It was acknowledged by the committee that there was work ongoing behind the scenes to ensure the correct governance structure was in place. Members then asked whether the independent aircraft noise survey report impacted on noise contours. TH stated it did not. Members stated that Hacan East challenges some of the findings in the report but welcomes the airport's openness in distributing to the Committee.

Members asked about a couple of changes in flight paths during storms and the process. RS stated that during storms air traffic control can allow a pilot to climb to a higher ceiling than usually permitted for safety reasons.

- **Community**

The Chair invited Tim Smith to update the Committee

TS stated that the STEM event had been a real success, and that the airport was building up to its meet the buyer event with around 24 buyers and over 130 East London SMEs joining. Previous events have seen over £5million worth of contracts awarded to east London businesses.

Members asked about the E16 magazine and asked whether the airport could assess whether it should expand distribution, and potentially look at a more open title given people outside of E16 are impacted by the airport.

Members stated that the airport was supporting the RDLAC Christmas meal taking place on 12 December. The Chair updated members on the new LCYCC website, which was now up and running. The Chair thanked the airport for their support in getting the new website online. to members and stated that the website would go live before the end of the year.

- **Airport Transport Forum**

The Chair invited Tim Smith to update the committee

TS stated that there had been a drive to increase the membership of the ATF, with 12 organisations attending the November meeting. The ATF would be meeting twice a year, and members of the committee were welcome to join. TS stated that the airport was working towards the targets within the LCY transport plan = 48% staff and 75% of passengers using sustainable transport to reach the airport, therefore, the ATF had discussed DLR and Elizabeth Line signposting.

## **5. AOB**

Members asked whether noise in the evening on Tate Road was due to construction. TH advised that there was no construction ongoing in the evening, therefore this noise was not due to the airport.

FP advised that the airport was using a new tracker for flight paths which included web chat support.

Members thanked LCY for support to the Royal British Legion, particularly on recent collections.

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking RS for his support to the Committee during his time as CEO of the airport and wished him well for his next role at HS1. RS thanked the Committee for the constructive conversations and reiterated his view of the importance of engagement with local stakeholders.

### **Next meetings**

The Committee will next meet in 2024 on the following dates:

- 4.00pm, 7 March 2024
- 4.00pm, 6 June 2024
- 4.00pm, 5 September 2024
- 4.00pm, 5 December 2024

The Secretary will send out placeholders for the meetings in the coming weeks. Reminders will be sent closer to the meetings. Location will be the Good Hotel.

Should members wish to be added to the sub-committee distribution list please contact the Secretary.