

**Minutes of the meeting of the London City Airport Consultative Committee
held on 9 March 2023, at the Good Hotel, London**

Present: Duncan Alexander (Chair), Duncan Ayles (LBN), Joy-Canon Canter (RDLAC), David Conroy, Cllr Ann Easter (LBN), Ian Gibson, Stephen Jones, George Masters (Secretary), John Shaw (Passenger Rep), John Stewart (HACAN East), Glynis Webb (Vice-Chair).

In attendance from LCY: Robert Sinclair, Francesca Pacifico, Lucy Craven, Tim Halley, Liam McKay, Aaron Uthman.

Also in attendance: Andrew Christy (local resident), John Doherty (local resident).

1. Minutes of the meeting on 8 December 2022

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

2. CEO Update

The Chair invited Robert Sinclair (RS) to update the Committee.

RS thanked members for their attendance, and stated that he would give a quick overview of the airport's performance in 2022 and expectations for 2023. RS stated that the previous year had exceeded expectations, with 3 million passengers using the airport (60% of 2019 levels). The airport expected 2023 to reach 75% of 2019 passenger levels, with peak times in summer likely to not be far off pre-pandemic levels.

RS stated that business travel continued to recover, and informed members of a new route to Antwerp which was operated by Luxair. In addition, KLM were beginning to use the E2-195 aircraft. RS advised that the recent border force strikes had not impacted the airport, and that the upgrade to the security scanners was underway, with new CT scanners being put in place at the airport before Easter. These scanners mean passengers no longer have to take liquids and laptops out of their cabin bags. This was about ensuring that not only the speed and convenience of flying out of the airport is second-to-none, but also about the "feel" of the experience for passengers with a focus on noise and customer service.

RS advised that the upgrade work on the departure lounge continued but was coming to completion, and that the consultation for the airport's planning application, which was discussed with the committee at the previous meeting, was due to end on 17th March. Turning to the community RS advised that the airport held various events to mark International Women's Day, and was continuing partnerships with local schools.

RS invited members to an operational tour of the airport which would be arranged in due course.

Members thanked RS for the update and also thanked the airport for their continued support to the Poppy Foundation.

3. Update on the consultation on changes to its existing planning permission

The Chair invited RS to update on the airport's planning application which had been submitted to London Borough of Newham Council (LBN) who were running a consultation exercise due to end on 17 March.

Members asked about the timescale for the consideration of the application. It was confirmed that the Council would likely consider the application at a Committee meeting in May, and that the Greater London Authority would provide feedback to LBN in two stages, the first being as part of the consultation exercise and the second after the LBN committee meeting.

Members stated that the Council had indicated it would be against the application, and that an emergency motion had been passed unanimously on 27 February. This motion requested that the “the lead member to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, the Right Hon Mark Harper and lobby the government to reject any application to extend Saturday flight times for London City Airport”.

RS stated that he was aware of the motion and that he hoped the application would be considered on its merits by the LBN Planning Committee. RS outlined that the application was importantly not for more flights but for more passengers and that it would contribute over 2,000 jobs to the local area. In addition the airport were increasing the Community Fund. RS stated he understood the local resident’s concerns about noise, which was why the airport had amended proposals following feedback from local residents as well as from the committee. This included:

- Reducing the Saturday extension.
- The original proposed increase in morning flights reduced.
- Proposed increases in evening flights removed.
- Focussing with airlines on the introduction of new generation aircraft.

Members asked whether this was about ‘less noise all the time’ versus ‘no noise at certain times’. RS stated that importantly there was no proposal to change the respite from flights on Sundays.

Members asked whether due to the emergency motion, the airport would consider withdrawing its application at this time. RS stated that the airport would continue with the application and hoped the application would be considered objectively by the LBN Planning Committee.

Members asked whether the application included improvements to the noise insulation scheme. RS stated it did.

4. Airspace Modernisation

The Chair invited Francesca Pacifico (FP) to update on Airspace Modernisation. FP stated that the process by which the Airspace Change Organising Group (ACOG) was running the programme was changing, with a greater focus on system wide alignment rather than individual airports working in isolation. FP stated that the majority of technical work for stage 3 has also been put on hold until LHR have more clarity on the design options they are taking through to stage 3.

FP stated that ACOG will shortly be holding a public engagement exercise to raise awareness of the programme and gain feedback on the next iteration of the Airspace Masterplan. This is likely to commence in Q1 2023.

5. 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**

FP informed the committee that the development of the new engineered material arrestor system (EMAS) is currently going through the CAA 1616 process and its installation works, due to be completed in summer 2023, will add an extra safety measure to the airport.

FP advised that the airport was working on the Noise Action Plan and would update the Committee on progress at the next meeting. The Plan is due to be published in September. The Chair stated that the current plan was seen as a template for other airports to follow.

The Chair also advised members that the UKACC had been briefed on early plans by the Department for Transport on sustainability.

- **Community**

Aaron Uthman (AU) advised that the airport was restarting its Women in Aviation programme, giving over 300 students an insight into the aviation industry. AU advised that the airport's HR team was going to a careers fair to share upcoming opportunities at the airport. AU advised that the community fund had been brought forward to support local foodbanks in response to the current cost-of-living crisis.

- **Planning**

Tim Halley (TH) advised that the Airport's Annual Performance Report would be published in June, and that thus far the airport was in full-compliance with over 200 planning controls.

- **Airport Transport Forum**

TH advised that the Forum was considering how people were travelling to the airport post the pandemic. Last year 68% of airport users used public/sustainable transport to get to and from the airport. The Forum was looking at ways to improve this figure, with work ongoing with the DLR and TfL on sustainable routes. There was also a renewed focus on walking and cycling to the airport.

6. AOB

The Chair advised that both he and the Secretary had completed their second three year term running the Committee. The Chair advised that both he and the Secretary were willing to stay on should the Committee wish it, but that it came with caveats in order to ensure that the meetings were as useful as possible to stakeholders.

This includes:

- A 6-weekly meeting with the airport to discuss matters ahead of LCACC Committee Meetings.
- A renewed focus on membership. With meetings reverting to face-to-face in future (dial in options will be offered on a case-by-case basis), with each meeting taking place at the Good Hotel.
- A new website, as the current website is out of date.

Members agreed that both the Chair and Secretary should remain for a further term. Members also asked how new people can join the Committee. The Chair stated that this would be the first item on the first 6-weekly meeting with the airport.

7. Next meetings

The Committee will next meet in 2023 on the following dates:

- 4.00pm, 8 June 2023
- 4.00pm, 7 September 2023
- 4.00pm, 7 December 2023

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.

Please note all papers can be found electronically on the LCACC website which can be found at www.lcacc.org.

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