

# Agenda Item 8

## BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE 2 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 1.30 PM (VIRTUAL)

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### BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE 2 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 1.30 PM (VIRTUAL)

Present: Mr Colin Flack OBE – Chairman

In attendance from Birmingham Airport Company:

Nick Barton	- Chief Executive
Andy Holding	- Corporate Responsibility Manager
Nikki Bains	- Head of Planning, Transport and Strategy
Tom Redfern	- Environment Manager
Rosie Bishop	- Environment Specialist

In attendance from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council:

Mr L Stevenson	- Representing the ACC Secretariat
Balsall Common Village Residents Association	- Mr D Ellis
Berkswell Parish Council	- Cllr R Lloyd
Birmingham City Council	- Cllr M Ward
Birmingham City Council	- Cllr D Donaldson
Catherine de Barnes Residents Association	- Mr D Cuthbert
Coventry City Council	- Cllr K Miks
Hampton in Arden Parish Council	- Cllr D Sandells
Hampton Society	- Mr M Blomer
Kingshurst Parish Council	- Cllr D Cole
Knowle Society	- Mrs E Baker
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr M Crompton (substitute)
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr Mrs A Rolf
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Mrs B Hill
Passengers Representative	- Mrs R Tyler
Warwick District Council	- Cllr G Illingworth
Wolverhampton City Council	- Cllr C Hibbert
Wychwood Club	- Mr G Heaps

Apologies were received on behalf of: -

**BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
2 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 1.30 PM (VIRTUAL)**

---

Balsall Parish Council	- Cllr K Tindall
Barston Parish Council	- Mr D Elliott
Birmingham Airport Company	- Stuart Haseley-Nejrup
Castle Bromwich Parish Council	- Cllr J Macdonald
Chelmsley Wood Town Council	- Cllr S Macdonald
North Warwickshire Borough Council	- Cllr D Reilly
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr R Singh
Sheldon Residents Association	- Mrs M Kennett
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr T Diccio

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman welcomed Members of the Committee and representatives from the Airport Company. Apologies were as noted by the Secretary and the Airport Company.

**RESOLVED**

That the Chairman's welcome and recorded apologies be noted.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, held virtually on 3 June 2021, were submitted. There were no matters arising.

**RESOLVED**

The Minutes of the last meeting be agreed as a correct record.

**3. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

The Chairman provided a further update on his work as Chairman of UKACC's which included his observations on a number of matters following a recent briefing with senior officials from the DfT:

- The DfT's positive feedback on the Afghanistan repatriation work together with a number of other activities at Birmingham Airport.
- Future aviation reform, spending review and aviation strategy together with the anticipated timeline (November-December 2021).
- The proposed revision of the guidelines for ACC's.
- The forthcoming re-election of the UKACC's Chairmanship.
- The impact of Covid-19 on the ongoing operation of some ACC's at smaller airports.

**RESOLVED**

That the Chairman's update be received and noted.

**BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
2 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 1.30 PM (VIRTUAL)**

---

**4. PRE-SUBMITTED QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE & MATTERS ARISING**

The Committee was advised that, on this occasion, there were no pre-submitted questions.

**RESOLVED**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**5. AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT**

The Airport Company (Nick Barton) - presented the new format of the Airport Activities report for the period April to June 2021. The report set out updates on the following matters:

- Passenger Statistics.
- ATM's
- Aviation Development.
- Key Stakeholder Engagement.
- Complaints Statistics.
- PRM Performance.
- Customer Satisfaction.
- Social Media.
- Security Wait Times.
- Immigration Performance.
- Baggage Delivery Performance.
- Cleaning Performance.
- On-time Turnaround Performance.

**General Updates**

When introducing the report, Mr Barton drew the Committee's attention to a number of additional headline issues pertaining to the ongoing impact of Covid-19 since his last detailed briefing to the Committee in June this year. In summary, this included:

- The handling of evacuation flights from Afghanistan and the associated operational impact.
- The ongoing designation of Birmingham as a red-list airport and an update on the current headline destination listings.
- The ongoing GTT process constraints and its anticipated forthcoming review.
- Ongoing stringent requirements for passenger testing and the ongoing impact of that on travel.
- Current passenger volumes for Birmingham in comparison with the rest of the UK.
- Air traffic numbers showing steady signs of recovery, albeit still a very low number in comparison with pre-pandemic air traffic for the same period.
- Continued impact on UK business travel and the wider economy.
- Ongoing banking and shareholder support.

**Discussion Points**

Passengers Representative and Vice-Chairman (Mrs R Tyler) – acknowledged the work of the Airport Company and all other third party stakeholders during the last few weeks and the efforts towards the evacuation flights from Afghanistan. Mrs Tyler stated that the working

**BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
2 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 1.30 PM (VIRTUAL)**

---

environment for staff must have been incredibly stressful and challenging and welcomed Mr Barton's briefing to the Committee on the success of the operation.

Coventry City Council (Cllr K Miks) – also congratulated the Airport Company and third party stakeholders on the evacuation flights from Afghanistan and asked for further information as to how the Covid-19 restrictions were managed as part of that operation. The Airport Company (Mr N Barton) explained that all incoming flights were treated as red-list arrivals via a separate arrivals terminal. Mr Barton gave an operational insight into the arrivals and processing procedure supported by the third party stakeholders.

Warwick District Council (Cllr G Illingworth) – suggested that it would be appropriate for the Committee to now send a message of appreciation to all Airport Company staff involved. This suggestion was widely supported.

Wolverhampton City Council (Cllr C Hibbert) – echoed the sentiments stated above. Additionally, Cllr Hibbert also outlined her experience from a recent visit to the Airport and the in-operation of the air-rail link and the perceived cleanliness of some of the terminal areas. The Airport Company (Mr N Barton) advised that the air-rail link was now fully operational. In terms of the cleaning practices, Mr Barton explained that Covid-19 had impacted on some of the cleaning operations. Additional hygiene practices had meant that some duties were undertaken less frequently (such as litter picks) as strict guidance was now being observed as dropped litter posed a Covid-19 risk. Mr Barton envisaged from an operational and service level perspective, normal high standards of terminal presentation would return over the coming weeks and months.

The Knowle Society (Mrs E Baker) – asked if it was permissible to share the information regarding the Afghanistan evacuation with residents via the Society's newsletter and the Airport Company confirmed that it was.

The Chairman – also added his praise to all of the recent work undertaken by the Airport Company.

### **Planning Updates**

The Airport Company (Nikki Bains) reported updates on the following headline issues:

- Castle Hills Farm House.
- HS2.

There were no matters arising from either of the two planning updates.

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the contents of the Airport Activities Report for the period April to June 2021 be received and noted;
- (ii) The Committee unanimously acknowledges the efforts of all BAL staff involved in the Afghanistan operation and that their sincere appreciation be placed on record and shared with all staff involved.

## **6. SUSTAINABILITY REPORT**

The Airport Company (Tom Redfern) presented the Sustainability Report for the period April to June 2021. The report set out updates on the following matters:

- Sustainability Update.
- Noise Violations.
- Night Flying Policy.
- Engine Ground Running.

**BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
2 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 1.30 PM (VIRTUAL)**

---

- Air Traffic.
- Aircraft Activity Complaints.
- Air Quality.
- Waste (Recycled).
- Energy.

In addition to the above, the Airport Company (Andy Holding) highlighted the Corporate Responsibility narrative and drew the Committee's attention to a fraudulent application made to the Community Trust Fund. Mr Holding explained the background and context to the application and the additional measures now in place to prevent a repeat occurrence.

The Airport Company (Tom Redfern) also drew particular attention to the narrative relating to the Airspace Change Runway 33 Standard Instrument Departure Routes (SIDs). A further update would be issued to Members of the Committee once received and available.

Mr Redfern also highlighted the forthcoming Climate Change Adaptation Workshop and advised that the Airport Company would shortly be sending out an invitation to the Committee and anyone wishing to be involved was welcome to attend.

**Discussion Points**

Balsall Common Village Residents Association (Mr D Ellis) – highlighted the movements against the Night Flying Policy and asked which were policy exempt flights? Mr Ellis commented that this information should be obvious within the report and could this be included in future? The Airport Company (Tom Redfern) advised that this request was already in the process of being resolved with the intention of making this level of detail available to the Committee going forwards.

**RESOLVED**

That the contents of the Sustainability Report for the period April to June 2021 be received and noted.

**7. CONSULTATION RESPONSES & NOISE SUB-GROUP UPDATE**

The Airport Company (Tom Redfern) delivered a PowerPoint presentation to update the Committee on a number of key issues which included responses to two current consultations; DfT Night Flying Policy Consultation and DfT Jet Zero Aviation Consultation. A more detailed narrative on both of the consultations had been included in the Sustainability Report, considered earlier in the meeting. A summary of the Airport Company's response to each was verbally reported.

Passengers Representative and Vice-Chairman (Mrs R Tyler) – then updated the Committee on the recent work of the Noise Sub-Group which had formulated a response on behalf of the Committee in regards to the DfT Night Flying Policy Consultation. A summary of that response was also reported.

**Discussion Points**

The Knowle Society (Mrs E Baker) – thanked Mrs Tyler for her work in coordinating the response on behalf of the Committee.

**RESOLVED**

That the contents of the verbal reports, presentation and updates be received and noted.

**BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
2 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 1.30 PM (VIRTUAL)**

---

**8. AIRPORT HEALTH FORUM UPDATE**

The Airport Company (Andy Holding) and the Committee's Passengers Representative and Vice-Chairman (Mrs R Tyler) gave a detailed update to the Committee on the current position pertaining to the Airport Health Forum. Owing to the impact of Covid-19, the Forum had not met for some time and it was considered prudent to re-establish its work-streams. The Committee was advised of a number of current dialogues with Solihull Council in readiness to restart the Forum and identify and agree its future priorities.

It was now envisaged that the Forum would meet in October and would consider and refresh its Terms of Reference as initial business. Mr Holding also reaffirmed the original core intentions of the Forum and gave assurances that these would not be forgotten going forwards. The Committee would receive a further update at its next meeting.

Mrs Tyler also reaffirmed the value of such a Forum and looked forward to its future work and positive engagement with a variety of key stakeholders.

**Discussion Points**

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (Cllr A Rolf) – highlighted that with some recent changes to the care system, this may now bring about greater direct engagement opportunities with stakeholders such as Birmingham City Council. The Airport Company (Andy Holding) also asked the ACC representatives from Birmingham City Council if there was anything they could assist with in identifying the correct representatives from that local authority to join the Forum for specific topics.

**RESOLVED**

That the contents of the verbal report and updates be received and noted.

**9. PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF ICCAN: ROB LIGHT, HEAD COMMISSIONER**

This agenda item was withdrawn.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business on this occasion.

**RESOLVED**

That the agenda item noted.

**11. DATES OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting would be Thursday 02 December 2021 at 13.30hrs. The venue and format of the meeting would be confirmed nearer the time.

**RESOLVED**

That the date of the next meeting be noted.