

**BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
4 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 1.30 PM**

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

4 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 1.30 PM

MINUTES

Present: Mr Colin Flack OBE – Chairman

In attendance from Birmingham Airport Company:

Al Titterington	-	Terminal Operations Director
Andy Holding	-	Corporate Responsibility Manager
Meganne Gill-Swift	-	Assistant Corporate Responsibility Manager
Nikki Bains	-	Head of Planning, Transport & Strategy
Tom Denton	-	Head of Sustainability
Matt Wilshaw-Rhead	-	Aerodrome Standards Manager
Sam Parkes	-	Sustainability Executive
Manuel Sarauz	-	Sustainability Coordinator
Holly Tayler	-	Planning and Transport Coordinator

In attendance from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council:

Mr L Stevenson	-	Representing the ACC Secretariat
Barston Parish Council	-	Mr D Elliott
Berkswell Parish Council	-	Cllr R Lloyd
Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council	-	Cllr M Kay
Birmingham City Council	-	Cllr R Shergill
Castle Bromwich Parish Council	-	Cllr J MacDonald
Catherine de Barnes Residents Association	-	Mr D Cuthbert
Fordbridge Town Council	-	Cllr D Cole
Hampton in Arden Parish Council	-	Cllr D Sandells
Hampton Society	-	Mrs J Hilton
Kingshurst Parish Council	-	Cllr D Cole
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	-	Cllr A Rolf
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	-	Cllr D Cole
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	-	Amanda Clover
Tile Cross Residents Neighbourhood Forum	-	Mr P Kelsey

**BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
4 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 1.30 PM**

Passengers Representative (and Vice-Chair)	- Mrs R Tyler
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr P Kaur
Warwick District Council	- Cllr K Aizlewood

Apologies were received on behalf of: -

Airport Company	- Mr N Barton
Airport Company	- Mr S Richards
Balsall Parish Council	- Cllr K Tindall
Birmingham City Council	- Cllr T Huxtable
Coventry City Council	- Cllr C Miks
Knowle Society	- Mrs E Baker
North Warwickshire Area Committee of Parish Councils	- Cllr R Habgood
Sheldon Residents Association	- Mrs M Kennett
Warwickshire County Council	- Cllr R Aitkenhead
Wychwood Club	- Mr G Heaps
Wolverhampton City Council	- Cllr M Jaspal

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.

The Committee was also advised that the Sheldon Residents Association had now closed, and Maggie Kennett had resigned from the Committee. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman placed on record a vote of thanks to Maggie Kennett for her service on both the ACC and the Community Trust Fund.

RESOLVED

- (i) That, the Chairman's welcome and recorded apologies be noted; and
- (ii) That, the Secretary write formally to Maggie Kennett to express the Committee's appreciation for her service on both the ACC and the Community Trust Fund.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, held on 5 June 2025, were submitted.

RESOLVED

That, the minutes of the last meeting be agreed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The Chairman provided a headline summary of his regular update to the Committee on current industry issues and his role as Chairman of UKACC's. In summary, this included:

- DfT Consultation (York Aviation) – a study into the value of night flights.

RESOLVED

That, the Chairman's quarterly update be received and noted.

4. AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT

The Airport Company (Al Titterington) - presented the Airport Activities report for the period April to June 2025. 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.

Specific Updates

When introducing the report, Mr Titterington drew the Committee's attention to several additional headline issues. In summary, these included:

- April to June 2025 – 3.7M passenger movements.
- The net-promoter score for Q1 2025/26 had increased to 43 (previously 22).
- Assisted Travel remained an area of challenge.
- Washroom cleanliness and provision was an ongoing area of focus.
- Security processing performance was positive overall.
- UK Border Force was well resourced, and performance was positive.
- Passengers were still arriving too early for flights which added pressure on check-in.
- Passenger numbers for 2026/27 were forecast to exceed 15M.
- Terminal and airfield improvements were ongoing in readiness for future growth.
- Aircraft accident had occurred on 6 August 2025 involving a light aircraft.

As part of this item, the Airport Company (Nikki Bains) also gave an update on planning policy matters, which included:

**BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
4 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 1.30 PM**

- Solar Farm planning application – an environmental impact assessment (EIA) had now been requested ahead of its determination. BAL was also undertaking its own aeronautical study. EIAs were expected to take between 6-9 months to complete.
- A45 Access – renewal of expired planning permission. A decision was expected in October 2025.
- Master Plan – the process had now commenced, albeit at a very early stage. Consultation would be undertaken at some point in 2026.
- Number 17 bus service had been launched (Chelmsley Wood to Marston Green) which had been funded by BAL for one year initially.

Discussion Points

Warwick District Council (Cllr K Aizlewood) – asked what could be done to dissuade passengers from turning up too early for flights. The Airport Company (Al Titterington) advised that a trial would be undertaken from the beginning of October whereby BAL staff would open check-in early to provide a better customer experience. Passengers should also be following the guidelines of the airlines.

Passengers Representative (and Vice-Chair) (Mrs R Tyler) – highlighted that varying levels of traffic congestion on the local road network might also be a contributory factor on a passenger's journey (and arrival time) to the airport.

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr D Cuthbert) – sought clarification on the divide between the north and south terminals, and if the airport was now adequately resourced for the provision of assisted travel. The Airport Company (Al Titterington) advised that the south terminal encompassed Gates 1-20, and the north terminal being Gates 40-60. For assisted travel, sufficient human resources were in place. From an equipment perspective, significant issues had been evident with the aging ambulift fleet which now was being incrementally replaced.

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (Cllr A Rolf) – sought an update on the Council's Planning Sub-Committee. The Airport Company (Nikki Bains) advised that the minutes had been requested and had been received. Those minutes would be circulated with the draft minutes of this meeting.

RESOLVED

- (i) That, the contents of the Airport Activities Report for the period April to June 2025, be welcomed, received and noted;
- (ii) That, the minutes of the Council's (Planning Committee) Planning Sub-Committee be circulated to the Committee.

5. SUSTAINABILITY REPORT (INCLUDING COMMUNITY NOISE REPORT)

The Airport Company (Tom Denton and Sam Parkes) presented the Sustainability Report for the period April to June 2025. The report set out updates on the following matters:

- Sustainability Update (including the Community Noise Report).
- Night Flying Policy.
- Engine Ground Running.
- Wake Vortex Strikes.
- Air Quality.
- Waste (Recycled).
- Energy.

Discussion Points

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr D Cuthbert) – highlighted page 40, Fig 36 (night flying policy usage against annual limits) and asked if the actual numbers could be included in the report, in addition to the reported percentages. Additionally, page 40, Fig 37 (monthly ATM count) the figures within the reported data did not correlate with the published bar chart and there was also an anomaly with the recorded Quota Count figures. The Airport Company (Sam Parkes) undertook to make the corrections to the report.

RESOLVED

That, the contents of the Sustainability Report for the period April to June 2025, be welcomed, received and noted.

6. NOISE SUB-GROUP – VERBAL REPORT AND UPDATE

The Airport Company (Tom Denton) provided an update on the recent work of the Committee's Noise Sub-Group. At the last meeting (August), the Sub-Group had received an update on CDA performance; NATS engagement; departure noise limits; and night flying performance. Further updates would be reported to future meetings.

Discussion Points

Barston Parish Council (Mr D Elliott) – stated that the reported night flying performance was an improvement, albeit not as good as in previous recent years. The Airport Company (Tom Denton) acknowledged that view.

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr D Cuthbert) – highlighted that the Sub-Group had begun to consider comparisons with London Luton Airport, specifically the difference in noise contours and lower night noise limits. Further comparative work would be undertaken by the Sub-Group at a future meeting.

RESOLVED

That, the update on the recent work of the Noise Sub-Group, be welcomed, received and noted.

7. HEALTH & WELLBEING FORUM - VERBAL REPORT AND UPDATE

Passengers Representative (and Vice-Chair) (Mrs R Tyler) - provided an update to the Committee on the recent work of the Health & Wellbeing Forum. At the last meeting (September), the Forum had considered engine idling from taxis; updates on air quality; and educational and employment opportunities. Further updates would be reported to future meetings.

Discussion Points

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (Cllr A Rolf) – highlighted that litter originating from taxis (and other vehicles) waiting in the local area around the airport was also a known problem, in addition to engine idling.

RESOLVED

That, the update on the recent work of the Health & Wellbeing Forum, be welcomed, received and noted.

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

The following pre-submitted question was submitted:

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
4 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 1.30 PM

Warwick District Council (Cllr K Aizlewood) –

Question:

“The Civil Aviation Authority’s recent CAP 3087 report (May 2025) provides strong evidence of noise-related effects on children’s cognition and reading comprehension. In light of Birmingham Airport’s approved plan to increase night-time air traffic from 5% to approximately 7.2–7.3%—a ~40% rise equating to roughly 21 flights per night by 2026–27—could the airport authority please clarify:

1. What specific health impacts on children (such as impaired reading skills and cognitive development) are being monitored as night-time operations expand?
2. Which indicators or data sources (e.g., noise exposure mapping near schools, academic performance tracking, surveys of sleep or attention in school-aged children) are being used to assess these impacts?
3. What mitigation strategies are being considered to protect children—especially those in schools or family homes under flight paths—such as enhanced sound insulation, adjusted flight paths at night, or restrictions on noise during school hours?
4. Given that evidence on children’s cognitive outcomes from aircraft noise is of comparatively higher quality, how is the airport planning to benchmark performance or evaluate the effectiveness of any interventions over time?”

BAL Response:

“We recognise concerns over noise-related impacts on children’s development. Through the Health and Wellbeing Forum, which reports back to this Committee, we keep a watching brief on research evidence as it emerges. As such, we welcome the CAA’s CAP 3087 report which summarises recent research into the issue, while noting that it “has not validated any of the analysis reported at the conferences, nor takes any view on their applicability to UK policy making.”

However, we believe these are issues that cannot be addressed by individual airports. BAL is not qualified to monitor and evaluate these impacts in the way the question suggests and believes that they can only be effectively addressed through academic research and the development of national policy based on any conclusive evidence that emerges.

In recognising concerns over the issue, we have previously, under the provision of our Schools Environment Improvement Programme, funded the replacement of temporary classrooms and the insulation of defined quiet rooms in five local schools. Our current Section 106 Planning Agreement with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council commits us to maintaining the Schools Environment Improvement Programme ‘subject to a minimum allocation in any 12 months period of £50,000 and report to the Council which schools have benefitted from the Schools Environment Scheme’.

This is reflected in our current Noise Action Plan, in which we commit to ‘carrying out an in-depth review of the Schools Environmental Improvement Scheme and the associated budget within this Noise Action Plan, with a view to developing and launching a new Schools Environmental Improvement Scheme’. This was originally scheduled for 2024 but became part of the discussions surrounding the adoption of the recent Night Flying Policy, hence the delay, but our commitment remains.

For information there are two schools – Hallmoor, a coeducational special school and Gossey Lane Academy, for primary aged children - which are located partly within or very close to the 63db noise contour which defines the scheme boundary, both of which will be considered as part of this review.”

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
4 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 1.30 PM

Members will also be aware of the long-standing Sound insulation Scheme, which has historically insulated around 7,000 domestic properties in the 63dB noise contour, many of which will be family homes with children. The most recent iteration of the scheme insulated just over 900 properties. We are currently reviewing this scheme too, with the initial intention of reaching out to those properties where residents have refused insulation in the past and where new occupants may wish to take up the offer.

Discussion Points

The Chairman – highlighted his role as Chair of UKACCs and his understanding of the dynamics between the DfT and the CAA regarding this topic. The Chairman undertook to raise this issue at one of his regular meetings with the DfT and the outcomes would be communicated back to the Committee.

Warwick District Council (Cllr K Aizlewood) – emphasised the importance of a joined-up approach between public health and education (potentially public health led).

Passengers Representative (and Vice-Chair) (Mrs R Tyler) – highlighted that it would be difficult to achieve positive local outcomes without support from central government policy. New housing sites near aerodromes was mentioned as a particular concern.

RESOLVED

- (i) That, the contents of the pre-submitted questions and answers given be received and noted; and
- (ii) That, the Chairman provide a further update to the Committee following his forthcoming (UKACCs) meeting with the DfT.

9. AIRSPACE MODENISATION & DRONE MANAGEMENT – VERBAL UPDATE

The Airport Company (Matt Wilshaw-Rhead) provided a verbal report and presentation to the Committee on the topic of Airspace Modernisation and Drone Management.

Discussion Points

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr D Cuthbert) – highlighted that it was apparent that ACC's were not being engaged at the present time regarding drone management and how those unmanned flights might affect airport operations and local communities.

The Chairman – The Chairman echoed similar concerns and highlighted the need for more, in depth, scrutiny as to how future commercial drone usage might be regulated and how noise nuisance from them might be mitigated.

Berkswell Parish Council (Cllr R Lloyd) – highlighted the deregulation of airspace and asked if aircraft would be equipped with new technology. The Airport Company (Matt Wilshaw-Rhead) advised of new legislation relating to electronic conspicuity.

Passengers Representative (and Vice-Chair) (Mrs R Tyler) – highlighted that the current airspace regulations had a good safety record, based on current air traffic control practices.

Hampton in Arden Parish Council (Cllr D Sandells) – highlighted the safety parameters for drone navigation, particularly if they lost situational awareness in flight. The Airport Company (Matt Wilshaw-Rhead) advised the Committee of CAP 947 which regulated the provision and use of unmanned aircraft systems and remote pilots. Cllr Sandells also highlighted the importance of regulated ground handling and maintenance.

**BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
4 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 1.30 PM**

RESOLVED

That, the update on Airspace Modernisation and Drone Management be received and noted.

10. CORPORATE CHARITY – VERBAL UPDATE

The Airport Company (Meganne Gill-Swift) provided a verbal report and presentation to the Committee on topic of BAL's Partnership with the Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity.

The Airport Company (Andy Holding) also highlighted that one vacancy had now arisen on the Community Trust Fund and expressions of interest were invited.

Discussion Points

There was no discussion points on this item.

RESOLVED

- (i) That, the update on the Airport Company's Corporate Charity be received and noted; and
- (ii) That, nominations be invited for the vacancy on the Community Trust Fund.

11. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP REVIEW – VERBAL REPORT

The Chairman provided a verbal update on the review of the Committee's Membership which now included a proposal to convene a Working Group that would meet on two/three occasions ahead of the AGM in December to aid the review.

It was proposed that the Working Group would be comprised of the Committee's Steering Group and any other members of the wider ACC who were able to commit to attending all meetings. The first meeting would be held at 1.30pm on 25 September 2025. Expressions of interest were invited.

RESOLVED

That, approval be given to the establishment of a Working Group to take forward the review of the Committee's membership.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business on this occasion.

13. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The date for the remaining meeting in 2025 was highlighted. The meeting would take place at Diamond House, Birmingham Airport and commence at 13.30hrs:

- **New date** – Wednesday 10 December 2025 (AGM) – changed from Thursday 4 December 2025.

RESOLVED

That, the remaining calendar of meetings for 2025 be noted.