

Minutes of the Consultative Committee Meeting held via Teams Wednesday 20 September 2023

Members Present:

Alan Wrigley	Chairman
Martin Hughes	Local Resident Rep (Horsforth end of runway)
Cllr Paul Bone	Pool Parish Council
Cllr Eleanor Thomson	Leeds City Council (Lab)
Cllr Jools Heselwood	Inner North West Community Committee
Martin Elsworth	Leeds Bradford Airport Support Group
Marilyn Banister	Menston Parish Council
Cllr Peter Caffrey	Calderdale Council
Cllr Bob Felstead	Burley & Wharfedale Parish Council
Cllr Raymond Jones	Horsforth Town Council
Cllr Angela Carr	Rawdon Parish Council
Keith Batty	Vale of York Gliding Clubs
Brian Dunsby	Harrogate District Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Paul Alderson	Leeds City Council (Con)
Karl Stephenson	Unite the Union
Cllr John Howard	Bramhope & Carlton Parish Council
Cllr Sandy Lays	Local Resident Rep (Yeadon end of runway)

Members Apologies:

Cllr Colin Campbell	Local Resident Rep (Yeadon end of runway)
Heather Ruane	Leeds Bradford Airport Support Group
Cllr Penny Robinson	Otley Town Council
Richard Bedford	TUC

Non Attendance:

Paul Moss	Sherburn Aero Club
Cllr Andy Paraskos	North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Richard Knowles	Baildon Town Council
Ken Cothliff	Aireborough Neighbourhood Forum
Cllr Lynda Goodall	Yorkshire Local Councils Association

Airport Officers Present:

Vincent Hodder	Chief Executive Officer
Charles Johnson	Head of Planning Development
Damian Ives	Chief Operating Officer
John Cunliffe	Commercial & Strategy Director

Minutes taken by Rachel Hawkes (Executive Assistant)

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chairman opened the meeting.

Apologies had been received ahead of the meeting from:

Cllr Penny Robinson
Heather Ruane
Cllr Sandy Lay is standing in for Cllr Colin Campbell
Karl Stephenson is standing in for Richard Bedford

2. Organisational Announcements/New Members

There are no organisational announcements to make the committee aware of.

Alan Wrigley discussed the unsolicited email that had been sent to a number of the committee members from GALBA requesting membership to the ACC. A number of committee members had contacted AW objecting to the direct approach which he agreed was not an appropriate way to request membership. AW confirmed that he had taken the decision to reject the application after having regard to the Terms of Reference for the ACC agreed with its members, the nature of GALBA as an organisation and having considered what, if any, additional value membership may bring the ACC, which he felt was limited.

Q. Cllr Heselwood: I would be interested in understanding the reasons why this application has not been permitted membership.

- Alan Wrigley: Under the Terms of Reference of the ACC, applications for membership are a matter for the Chairman and do not need to be voted on by the wider ACC group. As such, the reasons for rejection are confidential between the applicant & the Chairman.

Q. Cllr John Howard: I am unhappy about being directly approached by GALBA and find it inappropriate. I find them to be destructive rather than constructive.

Q. Marilyn Bannister: Can we refer to the DfT regulations in which it says committee members can vote in new members.

- Vincent Hodder: Our Terms of Reference state that the decision is that of the ACC Chairman and not the ACC members. The DfT regulations are guidelines and not rules.

- Alan Wrigley: Marilyn, you were present at the meeting where we ratified the process for new members.

3. Business Update

John Cunliffe, Commercial & Strategy Director, attended the meeting to provide a business update.

JC advised that over the Summer period, capacity has remained strong. It should be noted that load factor continues to be a challenge, this is mainly due to the pricing in the market.

July & August saw record breaking passenger numbers.

Jet2.com – performing well, we are expecting Jet2 to have a larger operation next year.

Ryanair – New routes are performing well (Porto & Perpignan). Ryanair continue to face some challenges due to the aircraft deliveries.

KLM – The 4th daily service continues to perform well.

Sun Express – New airline for next Summer, 3x departures per week to Antalya.

Discussions are ongoing with new airlines for next summer.

Commercial trading remains strong. SSP continue to trade well despite a challenge with penetration. We are exploring options for a world duty free for passengers landing into LBA.

The lounge has been extremely popular during Summer and we have continuously exceeded entry numbers.

Q. Martin Elsworth: Does LBA have enough room to house an arrivals world duty free?

- John Cunliffe: we are currently exploring all our options on how we might make this work.

4. Airspace Update

Jamie Babbins was unable to attend the meeting to give an update on the Airspace Change Programme. Charles Johnson went through the feedback from the CAA on LBA's Stage 2 gateway submission and subsequent failure and read a prepared statement in JB's absence:

Following LBA's Stage 2 gateway failure, we have sought further feedback from the CAA regarding expectations.

We're currently assessing this feedback and formulating a plan of action, before making any necessary amendments ready for resubmission. Based on the feedback, this may include additional design options or amending/consolidating the existing ones, followed by a short period of stakeholder reengagement.

We have requested a delayed resubmission date that allows us to reassess our position and ensure that we've covered all options. Likely to be early next year before we resubmit.

Q. Keith Batty: Are these omissions LBA or Cyrrus?

- Many airports have failed stage 2. This is a completely new process and the goalposts keep changing.

Q. Cllr Lay: It is fair to say it hasn't gone well. Is there a timeline? How do you move forward on the feedback?

- The process is due to end in 2027. We are currently only on Stage 2 out of 7. The government side is as much a mess as the airline side. In terms of next steps, the CAA will advise a new date for resubmission. Stage 3 is where the process is important as this is when the public engagement takes place.

Q. John Howard – There has been a lot of opportunity to participate, workshops have been held so I am not sure people have been taking up the opportunities.

- I think you are right but I understand that it could have been confusing.

5. CEO Update

Vincent advised that LBA is in a very strong position financially and performance. Particularly when we look back at the last 12 months.

We continue to invest in our staff and as of June, we were fully recruited ahead of the summer months.

Feedback received from airline partners is positive with many commenting on the positive changes since last summer.

Q. Cllr Eleanor Thompson: I understand the bus service will be reduced.

- WYCA are working with Transdev to consolidate the service.

Q. Cllr Eleanor Thompson: I have had many letters from constituents that are concerned due to the increased airport parking charges, travellers are parking on residential streets. How can this be managed?

- We haven't seen a dip in bookings. Could be a shortage of spaces which is driving this.

6. Night Movements

Vincent Hodder gave an update on the night movements.

2 weeks ago we lodged 5x certificate of lawfulness applications (CLEUD's) with Leeds City Council, with the aim of clarifying the planning conditions as it is difficult to interpret these. LBA and LCC have differing views.

There seems to be a lot of misleading comments as to what these applications are requesting.

Q. Cllr Raymond: At the previous meeting you accepted LBA was at fault as it was a technology error. I am concerned what the aim of this request is. Is it to increase the flights?

- At the time we did not agree to the numbers of the breach. This is a process of understanding what flights are permitted at night and what are not.

Q. Cllr Lay: the perception from the public is that this was sneaky, there was no discussion ahead of this being submitted.

Chairman Alan Wrigley interjected to advise that LBA is only seeking clarity of the current conditions and not asking for a change.

Q. Cllr Lay – It will change planning conditions and the public should have a right to make decisions.

- Chairman: This is a legal clarification, not a changing of the planning conditions.

Q. Cllr Lay: If louder aircraft are exempt, what stops airlines just flying louder aircraft?

- Planning condition are not the only rules. There are also noise mitigations. These differ on runway 14 and runway 32. Every aircraft is monitored. We are not asking for more departures, we have already been operating this way for 15 years. We are seeking clarification on the planning permission from 30 years ago. Logging CLEUD's is the recognised Town & Country Planning Act way to do this.

Q. Cllr Lay: You could have done more, you could have held consultations.

- That is not true. We have had many communications requests with LCC. We need an independent view. In asking for immunity we have done this for a period of time (10years+). If lawful we will continue, if not then we will comply.

Q. Cllr Heselwood: Like Cllr Jones, I have received many letters from constituents. There is still a lot of uncertainty. The overview from Vincent in this meeting has been good and informative. Would you come and speak at a local community event?

- Yes, absolutely.

Q. Marilyn Bannister: I am aware of the Level 3 slot consultation, how does this sit with the night movements?

- This is completely unrelated. We are currently Level 2 slot coordinated airport. We currently have no authority to tell airlines when they can and can't operate. If we are level 3, we have more authority.

Q. Marilyn Bannister: Why is the consultation period until 8am and not 7am?

- We don't want extra flights at 7am, we want to be designated until 8am.

Q. John Howard: This could have been avoided, you should have communicated this to the ACC beforehand.

- This is good feedback and we take it on board. LCC was aware.

Q. Cllr Eleanor Thompson: There was no formal notification to the ACC. Back to the previous point. Would level 3 help with persistent late arrivals?

A. It is hard to say but it would put airlines off arriving late.

Q. Martin Elsworth: Could the level 3 designation make matters worse for the night slots?

- No it can't.

Q. John Howard: Vincent, you are showing a degree of naivety. Since GALBA exists, they will always paint LBA in a bad light however small the issue.

Vincent advised the ACC that LBA is planning to make a significant announcement on the refurbishment and expansion of the terminal.

7. Any Other Business

Q. John Howard: What is the status of the railway?

- No update on this since the last ACC. We expect a full update early next year.

Next meeting date

20 December 2023 @ 14.00-16.00, LBA Media Suite