



Minutes

Meeting of London Luton Airport Consultative Committee

Monday 17 September 2007 – 13.00hrs. Putteridge Bury Conference Centre

Members

Mr J Bailey	Chairman
Cllr N Brook	Vice Chairman – Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr N Clements	Hertfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils
Dr J Davis	LADACAN
Cllr M Dolling	Luton Borough Council
Cllr J Gledhill	Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils
Mr P Hack	LLA Branch – TGWU
Mr M Holden	Breachwood Green Society
Cllr B Jennings	Buckinghamshire County Council
Mr G Joy	DHL
Mr T King	Signature Flight Support
Cllr B Lloyd	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr M Muir	North Hertfordshire District Council
Cllr B Pawle	St Albans District Council
Cllr Dr I Reay	Dacorum Borough Council
Mr H Richardson	LLA Transport Forum/Surface Access Working Group
Cllr D Rowlands	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Sir B Stanier	Aylesbury Vale District Council
Cllr P Swaisland	Bedfordshire County Council
Mr H Thomas	easyJet
Mr N Valleley	NATS (substitute)
Mr B Webb	LLATVCC
Cllr Mrs R Webb	Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils

Officers Representing

Mr P Bylo	St Albans District Council
Mr S Earles	L.L.A.O (Planning and Access Manager)
Mrs K Goodman	L.L.A.O (Airfield Environment Officer)
Mr R Hiscock	Aylesbury Vale District Council
Mr G Jones	L.L.A.O (Managing Director)
Mr R Monck	Hertfordshire County Council (substitute)
Ms W Rousell	Luton Borough Council (Planning)
Miss P Khimasia	Mid Bedfordshire District Council
Mr M Nahvi	South Bedfordshire District Council
Mr N Thompson	L.L.A.O (Airfield Environment Manager)
Mr S Turner	Bureau Veritas Consultant to L.L.A.O
Mr M Wilson	North Hertfordshire District Council
Ms L Wood	Dacorum Borough Council

Noise Consultant & Secretariat

Mr J Charles	Bickerdike Allen Partners
Mrs P Harris	Committee Administrator

- 1 Apologies for absence and substitution. Action**
- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr I Slater (Luton Borough Council); Mr M Burlyn (NATS) substituted by Mr N Valleley; Mr S Bailes (Hertfordshire County Council) substituted by Mr. R Monck; Cllr B Sadler (Bedfordshire County Council); Mr T Lee (Thomsonfly); Mr G Twiss (P.A.I.N); Mr R Koller (Bedfordshire County Council); Cllr Patston (Stevenage Borough Council); Sarah Williams (Stevenage Borough Council); Cllr B Wells (Mid Beds District Council); Cllr Hazel Simmons (Luton Borough Council).
- 1.2 The Chairman welcomed Mr Glyn Jones the new L.L.A.O. Managing Director and Mr Glen Joy from DHL as the new Freight Representative. He also announced new representatives for Stevenage Borough Council, Cllr Patston and Sarah Williams and Cllr Simmons, the second representative for Luton Borough Council, who were unable to attend this meeting.
- 1.3 The Managing Director introduced himself, saying that he was genuinely delighted to be doing the job and that he felt the Airport was a great contributor to the region. He accepted that there had been a few changes in faces recently but hoped that he would be able to give the Committee Members some continuity for the future. The Managing Director also stressed that he accepted that there would be times when LLAO and the LLACC would not agree on matters but would expect any such issues to be approached in a courteous and honourable manner by both parties.
- 1.4 Concerns were raised by members regarding the omission of Project 2030 as an agenda item. The Chairman **agreed** that the Master Plan would be included as a regular agenda item at future meetings to ensure that Committee members are fully updated on any progress. **Chairman**
- 2 Minutes and matters arising from LLACC 18 June meeting 2007**
- 2.1 Item 2 (i). LBC confirmed that they were still in discussion with easyJet in regard to advertising on the roof of their building and reiterated that the colour of the building was not an issue under discussion.
- 2.2 Item 3 (vi). The Chairman suggested that this item on noise complaints should be discussed later when taking the NTSC minutes.
- 2.3 Item 4a (ii). It was **agreed** that LLAO would invite the Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) to the next meeting in December to give a presentation. **LLAO**
- 2.4 Item 5. In response to a request, LLAO confirmed that a report on consultation would be published alongside the new Master Plan. LLAO confirmed it had circulated a formal statement to all LLACC members on 6 July 2007 and **agreed** to give an update at the December meeting. **LLAO**
- 2.5 Item 6 (iii). Luton BC informed that the report on the seating within the piers took place in February 2006 and was submitted to the Committee (see March 2006 minutes Agenda item 8).
- 2.6 Item 10 (iii). It was **agreed** that an index sheet showing correspondence received and held on file would be added to the front of the correspondence file for easy identification by members. **Secretariat**

2.7 Item 11 (iii). The Chairman commented that, following the working group meeting to consider how to improve the current LLACC website, work is progressing and a meeting is to be held with the Web Designer to identify the best approach.

2.8 The Committee accepted the Minutes for the LLACC meeting 18 June 2007 as an accurate and true record and **agreed** for the Chairman to sign them.

Chairman

NOTE: Item 4 was taken before item 3 so that the recommendations for reporting and discussing NTSC minutes could be implemented.

3 Minutes of the Noise & Track Sub Committee (NTSC) 3 September 2007

3.1 Item 2 iv – A suggestion was made that the increase in the night noise contour should also be shown as a percentage. LLAO clarified that the main detail is already shown in the quarterly report.

3.2 Item 2 v – LBC informed that the original consent for Airparks Slip End was for 4.17ha plus a further consent for 1.8ha equalling 5.97 ha. There are 3,510 cars on the site including 303 in the reception compound.

3.3 Item 2 xii – A suggestion was made that the initial sentence should be reworded. NTSC members to consider at their next meeting in November.

**NTSC
Members**

3.4 The Chairman informed that, arising from the advice of the working party, the key points from the LLAO Quarterly Environment report have been summarised for LLACC members so as to minimise duplication of the debate. These points are set out, section by section, in the NTSC minutes. It was therefore proposed to concentrate the debate on those points, section by section as appropriate.

Environment Report Section 2. Aircraft movements/passengers.

3.5 Reference was made to the high number of easterly operations during the 2nd quarter 2007 and that it was much higher than was suggested during the Western Airspace consultation. LLAO informed that despite the high percentage of easterly operations during April this will normally level out during the course of the year to an average 70/30 split (W/E). Last years AMR gives the comparative figures.

3.6 Concern was expressed that the night/day proportions are running at between 9/10% with the proportion remaining constant over a number of years, resulting in an overall increase in night movements. This was accepted as factually correct. LLAO confirmed that actual numbers are used, as well as percentages, are in the Environment Report.

Environment Report Section 3. Noise monitoring data.

3.7 The Chairman requested the Committee to note the one day time noise exceedance and one night noise exceedance during the period. The night noise exceedance results directly from the recent lowering of the night noise level to 85dB(A).

Environment Report Section 4. Complaints.

3.8 4 v Para 4.3 – The Chairman informed that the night noise complaints these were not typical due to the runway resurfacing programme in 2006 and a comparison between 2005 with 2007 was needed. LLAO **agreed** to produce comparative figures for the next NTSC minutes using figures for the relevant quarter from 2005, 2006 and 2007.

LLAO

- 3.9 4 viii Paras 2, 3 & 4 – The Committee noted the year-on-year increase in night contours and acknowledged that discussion had taken place at NTSC. LLAO **agreed** to produce comparative figures for the next NTSC meeting using figures for the relevant quarter from 2005, 2006 and 2007. **LLAO**
- 3.10 The Committee noted the increase in night movements overall and **agreed** to monitor further increases. **LLACC**
- 3.11 Item 5. Confirmation was sought regarding the implementation of the additional Visual Reporting Points which it is hoped will encourage helicopter traffic to route along the A1 and M1 corridors, thus reducing the number people in Harpenden that are affected by helicopter noise. LLAO confirmed that it is anticipated that the changes, which do not need to go out to consultation, will be in place within the next 2 months. LLAO to update the Committee at the next NTSC. **LLAO**
- 3.12 It was noted by members that from the 573 helicopter operations during the quarter on average 3 helicopters actually land and take off at the airport each day, the remainder being overflying traffic. LLAO explained that helicopter traffic is not given set routes by ATC and flies visually according to the Visual Flight Rules (VFR). It is anticipated that by introducing the new VRP's the number of people affected by overflying helicopters will be reduced by approximately 35,000.
- 3.13 Committee members were informed that central London has the same issues regarding helicopter movements and has been recently discussed by the Greater London Authority. *The relevant report that can be downloaded at the following link:-* http://www.london.gov.uk/assembly/reports/environment/helicopter_noise_report.pdf
- 3.14 Item 6. Committee members noted the update on the AMR 2007.
- 3.15 Item 7. The Committee were informed that although LLAO have not yet been formally advised, their submission does comply with the requirements of the regulations under the Environment Noise (England) Regulations 2006. The details of the Defra Contours and Actions points will be used as a comparison once every 5 years.
- 3.16 Members of the Committee were advised that noise contours do take into account all departure and landing noise.

4 The Work of London Luton Airport Consultative Committee Notes of the Working Group meeting – 31 July 2007:

- 4.1 The Chairman expressed thanks to all those involved in the debate of the Working Group.
- 4.2 Following the LLACC meeting of 18 June it had been agreed that a Working Group be formulated to advise on the best way forward to achieve the optimum levels of technical discussion at NTSC meetings and to ensure that at LLACC meetings appropriate topics are considered. Following some lengthy debate at the Working Group meeting on 31 July recommendations were made for the LLACC to consider:
- 4.3 Recommendation 1 – **Agreed**. Comment was made regarding the widening of debate to ensure that all airport related issues are covered at the meeting, for example disability awareness, passenger safety/comfort and customer complaints other than those specifically related to noise. It was **agreed** that more attention should be given to these in the discussion on reports from LLAO. In addition a suggestion was made to resurrect the Passenger Sub Committee where members of

LLACC can discuss, visit and experience the airport facilities for themselves. It was **agreed** to assess if this could be adequately covered by widening the discussion at LLACC as above.

- 4.4 Recommendation 2 – **Agreed**. LLAO confirmed that they would have a pilot representative at the next NTSC meeting.
- 4.5 Recommendations, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 & 15 – **Agreed**. For further clarity at the end of each debate a summary would be given. Committee members also welcomed the early availability of the Quarterly Environment Report. Some members felt that that on occasion it is necessary that a person may need to named in the minutes to give clarity on a particular point of debate.
- 4.6 Recommendation 11 – In a brief discussion at the end of the meeting it was **agreed** that the new room layout was preferred by most members.
- 4.7 Recommendation 13 – LLAO chooses to supply secretariat services in house and this is perceived by some members as not being independent. This has no reflection on the current support that is given to the LLACC as the majority of members agreed that the services currently provided to the Committee are excellent with the minutes now well presented and clear to understand. It was accepted that County Councils and Local Authorities may struggle to provide a similar service. It was noted that LLAO do currently fund this service by providing the secretariat and covering the costs for room hire and lunch. It was **agreed** to continue with the current arrangements and review again at some future time. The Chairman confirmed that he is responsible for approving the wording of the draft minutes.
- 4.8 Recommendation 14 – Following the suggestion that local authority officers be asked to provide support on technical documents which are outside the LLACC's noise advisors remit, concerns were raised regarding the cost that would be incurred by the local authorities. It was further noted that officers generally already work beyond their current remits and therefore adding to their workload may not be viable.

The Chairman indicated that officers may already be working on most of the topics for which a report would be required and would therefore only be using work that has already been carried out, with little additional costs or time being incurred. The Chairman made reference to the Stern and Eddington Reports from the last meeting as examples of reports which a local authority officer could have produced to give a broader and independent view point. Further support was given to the recommendation as Government expects Consultative Committees to play a more pro-active role in monitoring the environmental initiatives of the Aviation White Paper, at a local level. Hertfordshire County Council expressed willingness to provide reports on issues its officers were already considering, where these may be of interest or value to LLACC.

It was **agreed** that if the Committee is to widen the issues under consideration it would require reports to inform members. The Chairman **agreed** to work with members and officers on the best way forward.

Chairman

5 London Luton Airport Reports:

5a Managing Director's Report

- 5.1 The Managing Director's report was noted by the Committee.

- 5.2 In the Planning, Surface Access & CSR report, the 2nd paragraph should read Summer 08 not Summer 07.

5b Quarterly Planning & Development , Surface Access & Corporate Social Responsibility Report

- 5.3 Item 3.2. Planning White Paper – The Committee were advised that TBI, on behalf of its airports, has given a generally supportive response to the Independent Planning Commission suggested in the Government’s consultation.

- 5.4 With reference to the Noise Insulation Scheme, the Committee were advised that 26 eligible residential properties have taken the scheme, with the majority of households opting for double glazing option.

- 5.5 Item 4.1. Waste Strategy – The Committee welcomed the steps LLAO are undertaking on waste management and hoped that LLAO’s business partners would sign up to any initiatives proposed.

- 5.6 The Chairman commented that regular updates on the waste strategy and the carbon management initiative would be welcomed to ensure that the Committee is kept up to date on progress. **LLAO**

5c Quarterly Environment Report

- 5.7 Taken with Agenda item 3.

5d Quarterly Economic Report

- 5.8 Comment was made that the Economic Report should show not only new routes and positive business trends but also any routes that airlines may be withdrawn from time to time. LLAO to note **LLAO**

- 5.9 A member referred to a press report on the high costs of airport parking at LLA. LLAO stated that up until two weeks ago the marketing of the car parks was being carried out by NCP. LLAO have now taken back the operation and will be reviewing all aspects of the car parking facility.

- 5.10 Random parking on roadways and unauthorised areas were also of concern. The Committee were informed that it is a constant battle to keep unauthorised areas free from traffic and new initiatives are currently being discussed to aid the situation.

- 5.11 The Chairman commented that the opportunities for the general public to travel to LLA by public transport are very high.

- 5.12 The Committee noted that figures for General Aviation passengers are not included in the charts for Passenger and Aircraft Activity. The Committee were advised that the individual handling agents are not obliged to give passenger numbers. It was noted that aircraft movements are recorded.

- 5.13 A member commented that the prompts on the noise complaints line were long winded and unnecessary. LLAO informed that they very rarely receive any complaint regarding the system and, although some prompts could be abbreviated for the regular complainant.

5.14 The Chairman suggested that Committee members may wish to use the system and report back to the next meeting. LLAO would welcome comments from the members regarding the service. **LLACC Members**

5.15 Terminal facility complaint feedback – the Chairman suggested that a report be given to the next meeting on how the airport responds to passenger complaints and what is being carried out to resolve ongoing issues. **LLAO**

6 Luton Borough Council Reports

6.1 The Committee were advised that an application had been received from AMT for a coffee cart and is currently pending consideration.

6.2 The Committee were advised that discussions were ongoing regarding the advertising on the central roundabout at the airport.

6.3 LBC confirmed that they would draft a response for the Chairman on the Luton and South Bedfordshire Core Strategy, to submit within the consultation period. **LBC**

7 DfT Consultation: Emissions Cost Assessment

7.1 The Committee were informed that the Government produced a consultation document in August 2007 on Emissions Cost Assessment. Consultative Committees have not been invited to comment but LLAO confirmed that they were a consultee and are still considering the document before responding.

7.2 The Chairman summarised the consultation report, which refers back to the the Air Transport White Paper Progress Report, paragraph 2.32 which says, that Government is “already taking action to ensure that the aviation sector meets its external climate change costs”

7.3 Para 2.33 says “we are also clear that major decisions on increases in airport capacity need to take account of not only the local environmental effects, but also the wider context of aviation’s climate impact”.

7.4 Para 2.32 says “ In accordance with a key conclusion of both the Stern Review and Eddington Study, the Government therefore propose to introduce a new emissions cost assessment to inform its decisions on major increases in aviation capacity. This assessment would consider whether the aviation sector is meeting its external climate change costs”.

7.5 The proposal in the consultation document is:

- To take the most recent available greenhouse gas inventory estimates (currently 2005) of UK carbon emissions from domestic and departing international flights
- To apply a multiplier value of 1.9 for radiative forcing but with sensitivity range values of 1 and 4
- Multiply this by the appropriate monetary value for the social cost of carbon at £84 per ton, but using a sensitivity range of £163 and £45
- To compare this range of values with the Air Passenger Duty and aviation gasoline duty receipts for the year concerned.

7.6 The summary of the results shows that in 2005, if APD had at that stage already been doubled, then the climate change costs would have been covered. The sensitivity range is so great that at one end of the scale costs are more than covered and at the other end of the scale there is a heavy deficit.

7.7 The other important aspect to come out of the consultation document is that it is intended to be used by the Government in looking at future decisions on major increases in aviation capacity but not in relation to individual airports. It will thus be used each time they review, or produce a progress report on, the Aviation White Paper.

7.8 The Committee noted the report and **agreed** not to make a response.

8 LADACAN Motion

8.1 The Chairman commented that it was unusual for the Committee to receive a motion with a request that it be included on the agenda. He had sought advice to confirm that it did not conflict with the LLACC constitution. The Chairman asked the LADACAN representative to explain why the motion had been submitted, when it is a request for action by the airport.

8.2 The Committee were advised of LADACAN's contention that the decision by LLAO to publish Option D (in its draft Master Plan) without proper financial appraisal or adequate consultation with its landlord was both irresponsible and incompetent, and has caused a great deal of distress and anger amongst those parishes affected, particularly Slip End and Whitwell and therefore called on LLAO to make a nominal payment of £100 to every household.

8.3 The Chairman informed the Committee that the draft Master Plan was prepared by the airport at the request of the DfT and that the airport undertook the process of preparation and consultation not dissimilar to those undertaken by many local authorities as a matter of course. Those members who have been involved in the planning process over the years know that sometimes the favoured option in a plan ultimately becomes adopted but in many cases the consultation process results in a change or abandonment.

8.4 It was noted that the LLACC's role is to give advice to the Airport on many issues and that is likely to result in a range of views being expressed. The Chairman stated that on this occasion he felt that the Committee should neither agree or disagree with the LADACAN motion as he did not think that any further discussion would assist the Airport in bringing forward a revised proposal. LLACC members **agreed** to note the Motion.

9. Annual Meeting – Liaison Group of UK Airport Consultative Committees

9.1 Members were advised that the full note of the meeting gives them a good indication of topics that are being considered at that meeting and at individual airports.

9.2 The Committee **noted** that the DfT believe that airport consultative committees play an important part in the airport planning and development process.

9.3 Item 22 – Members acknowledged the request for consultative committees to monitor the implementation of the new regulation with regards to access to air travel for people with reduced mobility. LLAO confirmed that it would compile a report for the next meeting of the LLACC outlining the work that has been carried out to comply with the regulation. **LLAO**

9.4 Item 27 – As noted in the minutes of the NTSC, Luton has supplied all the data required under the END Directive. Defra will shortly be publishing noise contours and their draft guidance on action plans. Defra will be consulting with Consultative Committees on the guidance. It is likely that action plans will need to be completed by mid July 2008 and submitted to the European Commission in January 2009.

10 Correspondence received since 18 June 2007

10.1 The correspondence was **noted**.

11 Annual General Meeting:

11a Election of Vice Chairman

11.1 One nomination had been received for the Vice Chairman position. It was proposed by Mr M Holden seconded by Cllr N Brook that Cllr B Lloyd from Hertfordshire County Council be elected as Vice Chairman. **Agreed:** To elect Cllr B Lloyd as Vice Chairman of the London Luton Airport Consultative Committee until the Annual Meeting in September 2008.

11.2 The Chairman thanked Cllr Brook on behalf of himself and the Committee for his support over the past 3 years in his role as Vice Chairman.

11b Application for Membership

11.3 No applications for membership had been received.

11c Election of Members for Noise & Track Sub Committee

11.4 The Committee was informed that the named representative of NTSC had to be members of LLACC although substitutes could attend. As there were no withdrawals from the current NTSC membership and that Cllr Lloyd replaces Cllr Brook as Vice Chairman it was **agreed** the membership could remain as current.

11.5 It was **agreed** that a pilot will be invited to future meetings as a non voting member.

Secretariat

11.6 It was **agreed** that the Terms of Reference should remain unchanged.

11.7 It was **agreed** to appoint Cllrs Berry, Lloyd, Muir, Reay, Rowlands, Sir Stainer, Swaisland Messrs Davis, Twiss, and Webb to the Noise and Track Sub Committee; Mr J Bailey (LLACC Chairman) is Chairman of the NTSC.

11d Financing the Noise Consultant

11.8 Members **agreed** that an Independent Noise Consultant was required by the LLACC and therefore accepted the costs which are met by the Local Authorities and are within the budget for 2007/2008.

11.9 A suggestion was made that all members of the LLACC should contribute towards the funding of the Independent Noise Consultant and not just from the local authorities. It was accepted that local authorities represent the whole community and it remains appropriate for them to meet the costs.

11.10 It was **agreed** that the Local Authorities represented on LLACC be asked to contribute £650 or £1,300 per Council (depending on whether that authority has one or two Members on the Committee) to offset the Bickerdike Allen Technical

Consultancy fees for the Committee in the September 2007/September 2008 period.

11e Dates for Future Meeting

11.11 The Chairman informed that the normal sequence of dates for meetings tends to clash with the political conferences and Christmas. It was **agreed** that the Committee meetings be moved forward to the second Monday of April, July, October and January in 2008/9.

11.12 A rolling programme of dates will be supplied during the course of the year.

Secretariat

11.13 LLACC Meetings

17 December 2007

14 April 2008

14 July 2008

13 October 2008

All to note

11.14 NTSC Meetings

26 November 2007

10 March 2008

16 June 2008

15 September 2008

All to note

11f Constitution Addendum

11.15 The Committee considered the minor changes to the Constitution and **agreed** to accept the changes highlighted.

11.16 **Post meeting note:** The Constitution will also be updated to reflect the new timing of meetings.

12 Any other Business

12.1 A Petition, signed by some two hundred residents from an organisation within the parish of Toddington was presented to the Consultative Committee. The petition reads: *"I/we the undersigned residents of Toddington have been adversely affected by noise pollution caused by aircraft activity over the Toddington area since alterations to the arrivals flight path into Luton Airport in May 2006 and object to low flying aircraft over my/our home."*

12.2 It was the understanding of the Committee that the petition was sent to Martyn Cooper of DAP during his review of the western airspace changes.

12.3 The Chairman received the Petition, on behalf of the Committee and indicated that no action need be taken as the petition had rightly been sent to the DAP..

12.4 The Committee were informed the Mr I Slater from LBC would be retiring at the end of September and therefore would not be attending any future meetings. The Chairman **agreed** to write to Mr Slater thanking him on behalf of the Committee for his contribution to the Committee over a number of years.

Chairman

12.5 No other business was discussed and the meeting closed at 16.45.

13 Dates and time of future meetings:

- 13.1 Monday 17 December 2007 at 1.00pm
- Monday 14 April 2008 at 1.00pm
- Monday 14 July 2008 at 1.00pm
- Monday 13 October 2008 at 1.00pm

All to note