



Minutes

Meeting of London Luton Airport Consultative Committee

Monday 18 June 2007 – 13.00hrs. Putteridge Bury Conference Centre

Members

Mr J Bailey	Chairman
Mr N Brook	Vice Chairman – Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr N Clements	Hertfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils
Cllr M Dolling	Luton Borough Council
Mr P Hack	LLA Branch – TGWU
Mr M Holden	Breachwood Green Society
Cllr B Jennings	Buckinghamshire County Council
Mr T Lee	Thomsonfly
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 B Sadler	Bedfordshire County Council
Mrs C Smart	Chamber of Commerce
Cllr P Swaisland	Bedfordshire County Council
Mr G Twiss	P.A.I.N
Mr B Webb	LLATVCC
Cllr Mrs R Webb	Bedfordshire Association of Local Councils
Cllr B Wells	Mid Bedfordshire District Council
Mr R Wood	LADACAN (substitute)

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 P Hersey	Stevenage Borough Council
Mr R Hiscock	Aylesbury Vale District Council
Ms R Jones	Buckinghamshire County Council
Mr A Judge	L.L.A.O (Operations Director)
Mr R Koller	Bedfordshire County Council
Mr A Lerma	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 N Thompson	L.L.A.O (Airfield Environment Manager)
Mr M Wilson	North Hertfordshire District Council

Noise Consultant & Secretariat

Mr J Charles	Bickerdike Allen Partners
Mrs P Harris	Committee Administrator

1 Apologies for absence and substitution.

Action

- i Apologies for absence were received from: Cllr Sir B Stanier (Aylesbury Vale District Council); Cllr R Berry (South Bedfordshire District Council); Mr I Slater (Luton Borough Council); Mr M Burlyn (NATS); Dr J Davis (LADACAN) being substituted by Mr R Wood; Miss N Raper (L.L.A.O Marketing Director); Cllr J Gledhill (Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils); Mr T King (Signature Flight Support); Cllr D Rowlands (Buckinghamshire County Council); Mr S Bailes (Hertfordshire County Council) substituted by Russell Monck; Mr S Turner (Bureau Veritas Consultant to L.L.A.O); Ms L Wood (Dacorum Borough Council); Cllr B Sadler (Bedfordshire County Council); Mr M Nahvi (South Bedfordshire District Council)
- ii The Chairman welcomed Mr Angel Lerma the interim L.L.A.O. Managing Director, Mary Gatehouse TBI (an observer on this occasion, who at future meetings will join the airport representatives) and Cllr Wells from Mid Bedfordshire District Council to the Committee.
- iii The Committee were informed that good progress has been made with the recruitment of a new Managing Director for LLAO and it is hoped that a new appointee will be in position for the September meeting.
- iv Following recent concerns raised by members regarding the consideration of Item 4c on the agenda, the Chairman **agreed** to take the item in its numerical order. However, he stressed that only items needing further clarification should be raised under this point, as the Environment Report had been fully debated at the recent Noise & Track Sub Committee (NTSC) meeting and reported on within those minutes (agenda item 3).
- v It was suggested that the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is a substantial enough document to be a topic for discussion as a main agenda item at the relevant LLACC meeting each year. It was the understanding of the Chairman that this document had, in the past, been discussed in detail at the NTSC. However, it was **agreed** that the AMR should, in future years, be considered at the first LLACC meeting after its publication.
- vi The Chairman requested that if anyone has points to raise on the 2006 AMR, additional to those raised in the NTSC minutes, they should write to the joint authors who could then consider them.

Secretariat

2 Minutes and matters arising from LLACC meeting 19 March 2007

- i Item 2 (i). Following further explanation it was **agreed** that this sentence should read "LBC confirmed that the external alterations were....". Luton BC confirmed that they were still in discussion with easyJet in regard to advertising.
- ii Item 3 (vii). Following a debate regarding the implication of the word 'some', it was **agreed** that, although no formal resolution was taken on that particular item, the wording should reflect the views of the members more adequately and therefore the word 'some' should be changed to 'several'.
- iii Item 5b (i). Confirmation was given by LLAO that no works were currently being undertaken that could cause intrusive lighting to those who live in close vicinity of the boundary of the airfield.

- iv LLAO reported that discussions were ongoing with the Carbon Trust in relation to energy efficiency including emissions trading etc. with the aim of formalising a policy within the next few months. LLAO **agreed** to report further at the next meeting. **LLAO**
- v Item 5c (ii). "50% increase" should read 100% increase.
- vi Item 13. The Chairman confirmed that the dates for the remainder of the meetings for 2007 will remain as initially published.
- vii The Committee accepted the Minutes for the LLACC meeting 19 March 2007, as amended above, as an accurate and true record and **agreed** for the Chairman to sign them. **Chairman**

3 Minutes of the Noise & Track Sub Committee (NTSC) 21 May 2007

- i The Chairman referred to item 4 (ii) and informed that the first sentence should read 'It was noted by a member that the analysis demonstrated.....'
- ii Item 2 (iv). Comment was made regarding the debate on Continuous Descent Approach (CDA) compliance. LLAO confirmed that, whilst CDA compliance at Luton is not yet as high as the other London Airports (although already in excess of 80%), the procedures have not been in place for as long.
- iii LLAO stated that when Luton initially introduced CDAs it was expected that they would achieve 50% adherence but have always averaged around 80%. LLAO is expecting to see compliance performance continue to increase, hopefully approaching 100%.
- iv Further clarification was sought regarding item 3 (ii) when it was confirmed that the reference to the general increase in movements should have referred to night movements. Any formal revision to the minutes would be made at the next NTSC meeting. **NTSC**
- v Item 3 (vi). Reference was made to the new INM Model version 7 and it was reported that the LLAO Noise Advisor is still waiting to receive a copy. Version 7 should allow easier integration of actual tracks flown whereas they are currently imported manually, work which takes several days. A question was asked about the accuracy of last year's contours and whether they represent what was actually flown. LLAO provided reassurance that a validation process is undertaken.
- vi Item 4. Reference was made to the debate on increased noise complaints at the last NTSC meeting and a suggestion was made that further detail of the discussion should be included in the minutes. The Chairman informed that it was impossible to include every point of a debate in the minutes but he would strive to ensure that the minutes reflected as accurately as possible the main points raised. **Chairman**
- vii Item 5. A question was asked about how the introduction of additional Visual Reference Points (VRPs) would help relieve the current noise impact of helicopter activity. The Committee was informed that the objective will be to encourage helicopter traffic, whenever possible, to route along the A1 and M1 corridors thus reducing the number people in Harpenden that are currently affected by helicopter noise. This would contribute to containing such noise within existing road noise corridors whenever possible.

- viii Item 6. Clarification was sought on why the Executive Summary of the AMR is written by the Committee's Noise Advisor. It was suggested that if the Committee's Noise Advisor is asked to write a summary on behalf of and funded by LLACC, prior to the Committee seeing or discussing the AMR, then an audit process of the data contained within the report should also be undertaken.
- ix The Chairman informed the Committee that historically the Noise Advisor has been asked to write the Executive Summary for the airport section of the document only, as an independent review. At NTSC in November 2006 it had been agreed that the Noise Advisor should write a summary of the whole document.
- x It was suggested that the NTSC is tasked to consider how best this can be done for future AMRs. The LLACC Noise Advisor stated that the Executive Summary is not written on behalf of either LBC or LLAO but as an independent summary of the document. **NTSC**
- xi Confirmation was given again by Luton Borough Council that noise is monitored against the 1999 forecast contours and not the 1999 actual. To clarify this it was **agreed** that in future AMR documents the word 'forecast' will appear in the table 6.2.2. **LLAO and LBC**

4 London Luton Airport Reports:

4a Managing Director's Report

- i The Managing Director's report was noted by the Committee.
- ii Reference was made to the opening of a facility for Barnfield College which is to be operated as a CoVE (Centre of Vocational Excellence) for airport operational related activities. LLAO offered to provide a more up to date report at the next meeting and, if the Committee felt it would be of benefit, would invite a member from CoVE to the meeting to give a presentation of their work. Members **agreed** that this would be of interest. **LLAO**

4b Quarterly Planning, Environmental Management & Surface Access Report

- i Reference was made to the Smoking Area CLOPUD. LLAO reported that Luton Borough Council had confirmed that this falls within the permitted development rights.
- ii Some questions were raised about what permitted development includes. The Committee were advised that a previously supplied report from Luton Borough Council (LBC) explained the guidelines, rules and regulations in detail (Note: this report was disseminated with the papers of the March 2007 meeting). It was recognised that although the airport does have certain permitted development rights, until the specific details of a proposal are submitted it is not possible for Luton Borough Council to decide whether permitted development applies or whether a planning application is required to be submitted.
- iii The Committee were advised that the publication date of the final East of England Plan has again been revised and is now Autumn 2007.
- iv Members considered a very short summary of the Stern Review annexed to the main report. Some members suggested that emissions trading would not reduce greenhouse gas emissions and felt that the Government is not acting responsibly. They also pointed out that there are other environmental impacts which need to be understood.

- v Further debate on emissions trading ensued and some members expressed their strongly held view that emissions trading is not the way forward. The Committee were advised by the Chairman that emission trading is being debated at European level and the UK Government is committed to it. LLAO pointed out that this scheme is only one tool and many other initiatives are also being taken.
- vi Members considered a very short summary of the Eddington Study annexed to the main report. Some members expressed concern that it excessively promoted the economic benefits and took insufficient account of the environmental impact of major transport schemes.
- vii The Chairman reported that the Government response to the Eddington Study is expected in the Autumn and will form part of the Comprehensive Spending Review which will be used to allocate funds to transport schemes.
- viii The Chairman stated that people will have differing views of both Stern and Eddington. It was **agreed** that the Committee should not submit any comments to Government or LLAO.
- ix The Committee were advised that the Government had published "Planning for a Sustainable Future White Paper" for consultation. It was **agreed** that a response should be made by the Chairman, stating that the EIP style process for examining major infrastructure projects is supported but that the work of the Independent Planning Commission ought to be more accountable than proposed with decisions being made by Ministers or Parliament.

Chairman

4c Quarterly Environment Report

- i Concerns were again raised regarding the increase in complaints, especially those about aircraft track keeping. The Chairman suggested that any specific concerns should be directed to the Airfield Environment Office, however he emphasised that the statistics within the Quarterly Report identified that only ten complaints had, on investigation, been shown to relate to aircraft deviating from standard procedures (off track), four of which were due to weather avoidance.
- ii Comment was made that some easterly arrivals were not following the published procedure, giving a perception that aircraft were flying anywhere they liked. Clarification was given that all aircraft within controlled airspace are under the constant control of ATC. Confirmation was also given that LLAO has also introduced a visual approach restriction, following community feedback, since the introduction of the Western Airspace Extension.
- iii Members commented on radar tracks being available on some other airport websites. LLAO confirmed that they will continue to investigate and respond to individual concerns using a range of data that is available to them.
- iv Members reported that an automated response was being sent to complainants in some cases and it was felt that this was not acceptable as people would prefer a full response. LLAO advised that automatic acknowledgements have been sent for many years to show that the complaint had been received, but in around 90% of cases this is followed by a full response, with the remainder not requiring a further response.
- v A suggestion was made that consideration should be given to identifying if any additional pilot training or support could help reduce the small number of night movements that are within the 82-85 dB(A) noise band. LLAO advised that they do discuss such issues with the airlines if necessary.

- vi LLAO informed the Committee that there is an open invitation to members to visit the airport and see how the Topsonic Noise and Track Monitoring system is used to monitor aircraft operations and respond to complaints. **All to note**

4d Quarterly Economic Report

- i The Quarterly Economic Report was noted by the Committee without further comment.

5. Master Plan and 2030 Project update

- i The Committee were advised that following a recent LLAL meeting discussions are progressing well and it is hoped that a Public Statement will be made over the coming weeks outlining the way ahead.

- ii When the statement has been released a news letter will be distributed to Committee Members and local communities. **LLAO**

6 Luton Borough Council Reports

- i The Committee were advised that an additional planning application had been received for advertising on the central roundabout at the airport. It was confirmed that the Luton BC Highways Department is consulted on any applications involving road signage.

- ii Luton BC advised that they had recently sent out notifications to the Committee regarding planning applications prior to them being validated. However, due to complaints about not being able to view these on the Luton BC website, information will not in future be given to the Committee until applications are valid.

- iii Following comments about seating arrangements in the piers, it was confirmed by Luton BC that a report on seating areas has been conducted. LLAO confirmed that whilst no additional seating has been installed, some seating has been moved around as required to facilitate passenger welfare and comfort.

7 UK Airport Consultative Committees – Liaison Group Annual Meeting – Update from the Meeting Agenda

- i The Chairman outlined the various agenda points from the meeting held on 13 and 14 June 2007 at Stansted and advised that the formal notes from the meeting will be brought to the LLACC for member's perusal. All the reports and presentations can be accessed on the UKACC website (<http://www.ukaccs.info/>).

- ii The Chairman drew attention to those airports which have offered to host future meetings of the Liaison Group. June 2008 will be at Heathrow (to view Terminal 5) and June 2009 will be at Luton.

8 Planning White Paper

- i As discussed earlier (see para 4b (ix))

9. Department of Transport Consultation on Designation and De-designation Criteria

- i The report, explaining that the draft criteria had been confirmed with little change, was **noted** by the Committee.

10 Correspondence received since 19 March 2007

- i The Chairman informed the Committee that for future meetings only paragraph 4.2, providing an explanation regarding the handling of correspondence, will be included in the report.

- ii The correspondence was **noted**.

- iii A member's request that the correspondence file should be on the side table of the main meeting room during lunch was **agreed**. **Secretariat**

11 Any Other Business

- i The Chairman emphasised that it was important that technical discussions take place at NTSC meetings to allow for more diverse agenda topics at the main LLACC meetings. It was **agreed** that it would be beneficial if the Chairman set up a small working party to advise on the best way forward to achieve the optimum level of technical discussion; to ensure LLACC considers appropriate topics; and to ensure that the NTSC includes appropriate representation. **Chairman**

- ii It was also highlighted that the Consultative Committee has a role to represent the communities and interested parties in articulating both the benefits that the business of the airport provides as well as the environmental dis-benefits so that any growth takes place in a sustainable manner.

- iii The Chairman further commented on the LLACC website and it was **agreed** that a small working party should be formed to consider how to improve it. **Chairman**

- iv The meeting closed at 15.50hrs.

12 Dates and time of future meetings:

- i Monday 17 September 2007 at 1.00pm – Annual General Meeting **All to note**

NOTE: The next meeting is the AGM at which a new Vice Chairman will be elected. Cllr Brook has recently been elected Chairman of Hertfordshire County Council and feels he should not stand for the Vice Chairmanship of LLACC. Nomination papers are being circulated with these minutes and should be returned to the Secretariat at least 2 weeks before the meeting on 17 September.