

LIVERPOOL JOHN LENNON AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Friday, 30 September 2022

PRESENT:

Norman Elias, Passenger rep and Vice Chair
Cllr Chris Ellams, Helsby Council
Keith Levin, LAGAUA
Jordi Morell, Chester BID
Cllr Steve Parish, Warrington Council
Steve Pearse, FOLA
Tony Rice, Disabled Persons rep
Conor Williams, Liverpool and Sefton Chamber of commerce and Industry
Cllr Bill Woolfall, Halton Council

Liverpool John Lennon Airport

Andrew Dutton, Head of Environment
Christina Smith, Customer Services
Robin Tudor, Liverpool Airport

Secretariat

Mike Jones, Secretary
Christine Morley, observing

33 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from:
Cllr Caroline Ashton, Frodsham Council;
Cllr Andy Bowden, St Helens Council;
Cllr Tony Brennan, Knowsley Council
Cllr Liz Grey, Wirral Council
Cllr Andrew Hesketh, Halewood Council
Cllr Greg Myers, Sefton Council;
Alex Naughton, LCRCA
Simon Osborne, National Trust;
Cllr Lynn Riley Cheshire West and Chester Council;
Cllr Malcolm Spargo, Hale Council;

PRESENT:

Norman Elias, Passenger rep and Vice Chair
Cllr Chris Ellams, Helsby Council
Keith Levin, LAGAUA
Jordi Morell, Chester BID

Cllr Steve Parish, Warrington Council
Steve Pearse, FOLA
Tony Rice, Disabled Persons rep
Conor Williams, Liverpool and Sefton Chamber of commerce and Industry
Cllr Bill Woolfall, Halton Council

Liverpool John Lennon Airport
Andrew Dutton, Head of Environment
Christina Smith, Customer Services
Robin Tudor, Liverpool Airport

Secretariat
Mike Jones, Secretary
Christine Morley, observing

34 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of personal interests.

35 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

36 **MINUTES**

Resolved: That

- (1) **the minutes of the Liverpool Airport Consultative Committee meeting held on 10 June 2022 be agreed as a correct record; and**
- (2) **the minutes of the Noise Monitoring Sub-Committee meeting held on 15 July 2022 be received and noted.**

37 **MEMBERSHIP**

The Secretary noted that the Cheshire West and Chester Council representative stated that they could no longer attend and would be seeking an alternative Member representative.

38 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

David Woolford had submitted questions, which were:

Peel Airports has or is about to rid itself of two out of three of its airports. Given this, what are they to do with Liverpool Airport and the lack of year in, year out profits as the reason has been given for Doncasters demise is its financial situation?

Will equipment be moved here from Doncaster?

I noticed that Manchester, Leeds and East Midlands have been quick off the mark and said publicly what they are going to do to fill the gap left. Is Liverpool to do anything publicly?

Robin Tudor informed the Committee that Peel Airports had announced that they would cease operations at Doncaster Sheffield Airport (DSA) following a strategic review over the Summer after one of the Airport's main airline's chose to no longer base aircraft there, significantly reducing flights and passenger numbers, leaving the airport financially unviable. With no new buyers having been found the airport is now set to close at the end of October.

He explained that the ownership of Liverpool Airport was different to that of DSA in that Peel were the joint majority shareholder here alongside infrastructure investment company Ancala, with both companies committed to the Airport and its growth aspirations. Liverpool City Council also retained a small shareholding too.

In addition, Liverpool had two of Europe's largest airlines in easyJet and Ryanair operating from here alongside a growing list of other airlines too including Wizzair, Loganair, Lufthansa and from 7 October PLAY airlines. Whilst recovery from the impacts of the pandemic continued to have a financial impact, the airport remained optimistic regarding the future.

Colleagues were working closely with the DSA team, discussing available positions here at Liverpool that may be suitable for members of the team being made redundant in DSA. The Airport was also looking at equipment that may be repurposed for use in Liverpool too.

The transfer of freight traffic was also being investigated but since there was more substantial freight infrastructure at DSA this was less likely to be possible.

It was noted that Air Traffic Control at Liverpool controlled Doncaster airspace remotely though there was no envisaged impact to operations for airlines and general aviation traffic at Liverpool.

39 **QUARTERLY BUSINESS REPORT**

Robin Tudor spoke to his regular update report for the period May to August 2022. The big difference to the previous year was that there were 400,000 passengers in the period in 2021 and over a million in 2022. It was still 26% down on 2019 but showed an increasing recovery. There had been none of the queues which were reported at other airports, despite a perception that all airports were suffering problems and passengers were arriving too early expecting problems. There had been some staffing problems within airlines,

which had caused a dip in on-time departures. There was a new route to Paris and with flights to Reykjavik starting soon, the numbers of routes to European cities will increase to 15.

General Aviation had recovered better than commercial flights, and freight was dominated by automotive movements. There had been a city region initiative to restrict bus fares to £2 a fare which may encourage public transport use.

Resolved:
That the update be noted.

40 **CUSTOMER SERVICES UPDATE**

Christina Smith detailed her report on customer services enquiries between May and August 2022, showing numbers, types and reasons for contacts. The highest during the period was 2,000 direct contacts in May, with car parking the commonest reason. She noted a threefold increase in requests for sunflower 'assistance' lanyards, which may be due to people attempting to avoid potential queues through security. The airport had been accredited 'disability confident' to help attract employees with disabilities.

Resolved:
That the update be noted.

41 **TOPICAL ITEM**

Tony Rice, Disabled consultant and disabled persons representative, provided an update on his work with Dubai airport, which had the aim of being extremely accessible to all, which fitted with the country's aims to have all public areas accessible to 'people of determination' as they name Passengers with Reduced Mobility (PRM).

One service they now provide hotel rooms as a calmer environment for passengers who find the bustle of airports more difficult to cope with. The room have links via tablets to drinks and food delivery. Airport staff at all levels were trained for interactions and evacuation drills care carried out with actual disabled people including blind, deaf, autistic etc. The project had been successful and popular.

42 **AIRSPACE CHANGE PROCESS**

Andrew Dutton talked through the background to the Airspace Change, reminding members that Manchester, Leeds and East Midlands were the main airports in the area that Liverpool was in, and we awaited them to catch up to the same stage before any progress could be made. Progress would involve re-engagement with the people and groups involved.

**Resolved –
That the update ne noted.**

43 **ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME**

**Resolved –
That the annual work programme be noted.**

44 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to report.

45 **MEMBERS ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

There were no members issues raised for discussion.

46 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting was Friday 18 November 2022 at 10.30 am, in person in the Cavern Suite, Liverpool Airport.

47 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

This page is intentionally left blank