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LIVERPOOL JOHN LENNON AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Friday, 21 May 2021

PRESENT:

Bob Swann, Chairman

Councillor Caroline Ashton, Frodsham Council

Councillor Tony Brennan, Knowsley Council

Michelle Cameron, Liverpool & Sefton Chamber of Commerce

Norman Elias, Vice Chairman/Passenger rep

Councillor Michael Green, Lancashire Council

Councillor Liz Grey, Wirral Council

Stan Hill, Halton Council

Keith Levin, LAGAUA

Jordi Morell, passenger rep

Alex Naughton, Combined Authority

Simon Osborne, National Trust

Councillor Lynn Riley, Cheshire West and Chester Council

Councillor Michael Roche, Sefton Council

Tony Rice, Disabled Persons

Councillor Steve Parish, Warrington Council

Liverpool Airport:

Andrew Dutton, Head of Environment

Christina Smith, Customer Services

Robin Tudor, Head of Public Relations

Secretariat:

Mike Jones, Secretary

16 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor David Baines, St Helens Council

Councillor Chris Ellams, Helsby Council

Councillor Yvonne Graves, Halewood

Therese Irving, Wirral Older People's Parliament

Stephen Pearse, Friends of Liverpool Airport

Councillor Malcolm Spargo, Hale Council

17 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of personal interests.

18 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

19 MINUTES

In relation to item 3 in the Consultative Committee minutes, the Chairman asked that people refer to him as Chair or Chairman in future as he regarded the word Chairman as the title of the role. This could be reviewed if someone else took over the role.

Members asked whether the Airport was involved in any of the local work or partnerships in developing hydrogen as a fuel. Andrew Dutton explained that the Airport was not involved individually but via the Combined Authority. It was suggested that the topic could be included in a report in the future.

Resolved: That

- (1) the minutes of the meeting of the Consultative Committee held on 19 February 2021 be agreed; and**
- (2) the minutes of the Noise Monitoring Sub-Committee held on 23 April 2021 be received.**

20 MEMBERSHIP

Mike Jones announced two changes in membership since the last meeting:

1. North Cheshire Rail Users Group - Cedric Green asked to be removed. The Group would still be updated when needed via the Chairman Bob Swann, and they retained membership of the Surface Access meetings through another member.
2. Halewood Town Council - Following their AGM on 13 May, Councillor Yvonne Graves was appointed as its principle representative and Councillor Andrew Hesford as its deputy representative.

Councillor Stan Hill announced that this would be his last meeting as Halton Council had a new representative. The Chairman wished him well and thanked him for his regular attendance and participation at meetings.

21 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present and no questions had been submitted in advance.

22 QUARTERLY BUSINESS REPORT

Robin Tudor talked through his quarterly report. Key points included:

- There had been little change since the last meeting, with passenger numbers 96% down on pre-covid levels, in common with many airports because of the effective ban on international leisure travel.

- Daily flights continued to the Isle of Man for healthcare access and to Belfast also, in addition to a small number of international flights to mainly Eastern European destinations.
- The Government had announced a traffic light system for international travel but of the 12 countries on the 'green' list only Portugal was an existing destination from Liverpool, and costs were onerous for testing on returning. It was hoped that there would be reconsideration on rules at the end of June.
- Restrictions in other countries varied and was a further disincentive.
- A positive sign was the commitment and plans from airline partners to grow their services as soon as they could, with a number of new services announced by airlines.
- Freight had been relatively high in January and February but reduced in March, partly because of restricted opening hours at the Airport.
- The Airport had introduced an employee assistance program to protect health and wellbeing of employees.
- International Women's Day had been celebrated at the Airport in March promoting opportunities for women in the airport industry.
- The Airport Transport Forum had met and received updates from transport companies and the combined authority.
- A car park had been used by an outdoor entertainment company to host drive-in films and live entertainment.

Keith Levin raised the issue of the increase in fees for General Aviation. Most were understandable but there had been a 100% increase for 'touch and go' training flights. When added to the landing fee and aeroplane hire it made training prohibitively expensive. (post-meeting note: The Airport looked into these issues and responded directly to Keith to clarify that there had been no increase in charges from April 2021 with all charges frozen from the last financial year, in addition to a 40% discount continuing to be offered on all pricing for based operators. A 75% discount is in place for 'touch and go' operations, which cost £6 as opposed to the £24 reported at the meeting. The Airport had therefore asked the general aviation community for specific examples of any perceived overcharging which they can investigate further, as they are unaware of any operators disputing charges made to date)

23 **CUSTOMER SERVICES UPDATE**

Christina Smith provided an update on customer service activity. There remained significantly lower customer contacts due to uncertainties about travel. Amendments had continued due to changes to flights. Queries had focussed on uncertainty of requirements which were likely to come into effect for future travel plans. To answer those, the Airport had provided links to Government and airline website as rather than direct advice as advice changed over time. Christina had noted that many people were taking credit links rather than a refund in the expectation that they could use them in future.

Regarding accessibility issues, it had been noted that regular recognised travellers with reduced mobility had not been seen but there had been an increase in customers who had not booked assistance previously and those with hidden conditions such as autism. The proportion requiring assistance had increased because of the continued regular medical flights with the Isle of Man and the reduction in tourist travel.

24 **AIRSPACE CHANGE PROCESS**

Andrew Dutton provided a brief update on the airspace change process. The restarting of the process was being co-ordinated by ACOG (Airspace Change Organisation Group) who had the intention of bringing several other schemes to the same level before all restarted. Progression of the Liverpool Airport Airspace Change process was dependent on third Parties. Therefore, there was no certainty on timescales. However, implementation if successful was unlikely to be until Winter 2022/2023 at the earliest.

25 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to report.

26 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

27 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting was Friday 17 September 2021 at 10.30 am. It may be face-to-face if that was advisable at that time, although there may be an option for online participation.