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LIVERPOOL JOHN LENNON AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Friday, 26 May 2023

PRESENT:

Bob Swann, Chair

Norman Elias, passenger rep and deputy chair

Councillor Tony Brennan, Knowsley Council

Councillor Keith Laird, St Helens Council

Jordi Morell, West Chester BID

Alex Naughton, LCRCA

Simon Osborne, National Trust

Councillor Steve Parish, Warrington Council

Steve Pearse, Friends Of Liverpool Airport

Tony Rice, Independent disability consultant

Councillor Graham Wood, Frodsham Council

Councillor Bill Woolfall, Halton Council

Liverpool Airport

Andrew Dutton Head of Environment

Jonny Ford, Business Development Manager

Christina Smith, Customer Services

Robin Tudor, Head of PR and Comms

Secretariat

Mike Jones (Sec)

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Chris Ellams, Helsby Council

Conor Williams, Liverpool Chamber of Commerce

2 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of personal interests.

3 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

4 **MINUTES**

It was noted that the minutes from the previous meeting of the Noise Monitoring Sub-Committee had yet to be finalised.

Resolved: That

- (1) the minutes of the Liverpool Airport Consultative Committee meeting held on 17 February 2023 be agreed as a correct record; and**
- (2) it be noted that the receiving of the minutes of the Noise Monitoring Sub-Committee meeting held on 21 April 2023 would be deferred to a future meeting.**

5 MEMBERSHIP

The Secretary informed the Committee that it had been discovered that there was no place on the Noise Monitoring Sub-Committee for the Disabled Persons Representative. The error originated a few years ago when it was practice for the Vice-Chair of the Consultative Committee to be the Chair of the Sub-Committee, but they were independently elected now.

6 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions had been submitted in advance.

7 QUARTERLY BUSINESS REPORT

Robin Tudor shared information from the Quarterly Business Report for the period 1 January to 31 March 2023 which was within the Airport's 'Winter' period.

Key points included:

- There were 780,000 passengers in the quarter which was an increase from the previous year but still 25% down on pre-covid levels.
- There were positive announcements for the near future – easyJet, Ryanair and Lufthansa were increasing capacity but still expected to be about 85% of 2019 levels at end of year.
- Aer Lingus were to start flying to Dublin twice a day for six days a week. which would connect to their long-haul services including clearing US immigration. Also, Jet2.com and Jet2 Holidays made a decision to operate from the Airport for first time at Summer 2024 with 54 flights a week.
- The Eurovision Song Contest had been huge success for Liverpool and saw increased airport use, with branding, a dedicated welcome desk, charter flights and increased bus services.

Members queried where the new airlines were being sited and would they do their own baggage handling. Robin explained that this would be clarified in due course and that the airport was confident it had sufficient space to accommodate the additional business as this would take passenger numbers back to pre-pandemic levels, which the infrastructure could accommodate

again, though it was likely that some short term improvements would be made to expand part of the Arrivals area.

It was noted that the Liverpool City Region was looking at the legacy of the Eurovision event, consider the viability of similar events in the future.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

8 **CUSTOMER SERVICES UPDATE**

Christina Smith talked through the analysis of contacts with Customer Services. Between 0.5% and 0.75% of passengers contacted the services. It was evident post-covid that people appreciated an online chat option which Liverpool did not have, but they were working on starting one from June. It may remove about 8% of enquiries. Negative comments were decreasing over time. Passengers with accessibility issues were about 2% of the total, with about 85% pre-booking assistance, which was higher than most airports.

Members commented on how well respected the Airport was for dealing with disabilities although a longer period of free parking would benefit more people with disabilities. Members asked for feedback on this recurring issue as there did not seem to be a financial or capacity issue limiting it. It was noted that terminology was changing on the website from 'passengers with Reduced Mobility' to 'accessibility'.

Resolved – That the report be noted, and a response on free parking times be brought to a future meeting.

9 **AIRSPACE CHANGE PROCESS**

Andrew Dutton updated the Committee on the Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) which was seeking to migrate the Liverpool John Lennon Airport (LJLA) procedures for the way aircraft arrive and depart LJLA from those based on land based to satellite-based navigation whilst seeking to systemise the way the airspace is used within the Manchester Terminal Manoeuvring Area (MTMA) overall.

Prior to the LJLA ACP being paused, due to the Covid pandemic, LJLA had reach Stage 4A of the process CAP1616, after submitting the consultation report to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Now the ACP process was restarting, LJLA was revisiting Stage 2 of CAP1616 to review what had changed since the ACP was paused in November 2020. As part of the Stage 2 Engagement, there were two virtual presentations/meetings which were attended by about 100 people in total and two face to face with about 10 attending. Responses would be considered and resubmitted to the Civil Aviation Authority with the aim of implementation of any resulting option by 2028.

The revisiting of Stage 2 was to consider additional options to those already considered as part of the original Stage 2 in 2019. The new options would be in the form of an addendum that would accompany the original Stage 2 submission that successful passed through the Gateway in 2019.

10 **AIRPORT TRANSPORT FORUM**

Robin Tudor gave an update from the meetings of the Airport Transport Forum, which considers the surface access to the airport.

It had met since the last Committee meeting and discussed a study from the Combined Authority (CA) looking at improving surface access to South Parkway, the closest railway station to the Airport, and Liverpool city centre. The CA had been seeking views on priorities for limited funds. Both dedicated access to Liverpool South Parkway and the city centre were seen as equally important.

Also discussed was access for employees by public transport, a presentation from CA on bus reform proposals, and a consultation looking at the two proposals around franchising bus operations.

Members added that the refurbishment of Chester Railway Station was going ahead and suggested that early morning cross river links, for staff and passengers, be raised for discussion.

11 **TOPICAL ITEM**

Jonny Ford, Aviation Development Manager, informed the Committee about the Airport's business. The recovery from the Covid pandemic reached about 85% of pre-pandemic level in April. He also informed them that business development was continuous and it could take a decade to secure a new airline to start operating from Liverpool, but there had been a run of successes and positive feedback - easyJet based a 7th aircraft here and were promoting new routes, and the Aer Lingus link to North America via the Dublin hub opened up new destinations. Also the leisure tour operator Jet 2 was a new market (package holidays) for the airport.

12 **UKACCS (UNITED KINGDOM AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES) CONFERENCE**

The notes and key documents from the 2022 conference of the UK Airport Consultative Committees (UKACCs) were shared with the Committee for their information.

13 **ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME**

Resolved –

That the annual work programme be noted.

14 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to note.

15 **ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION WITH NOTICE**

There were no items notified for discussion.

16 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to discuss.

17 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting was Friday 29 September 2023 at 10.30 am at the Cavern Suite, Liverpool Airport.

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