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LIVERPOOL JOHN LENNON AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Friday, 20 November 2020
10.30 - 11.40 a.m.

PRESENT:

Bob Swann, Chairman
Caroline Ashton, Frodsham Council
Michelle Cameron, Liverpool & Sefton Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Councillor Ken Dalton, Halewood Parish Council
Norman Elias, Passenger rep
Councillor Phil Gilchrist, Wirral Council
Cedric Green, North Cheshire Rail Users' Group
Councillor Michael Green, Lancashire Council
Councillor Stan Hill, Halton Council
Keith Levin, General Aviation
Jordi Morell, Independent
Alex Naughton, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority inc Merseytravel
and the LEP
Simon Osborne, National Trust
Steve Parish, Warrington Council
Councillor Michael Roche, Sefton Council
Councillor Malcolm Spargo, Hale Parish Council
Liverpool Airport
Robin Tudor, Head of Public Relations
Christina Smith, Head of Customer Relations
Secretariat
Mike Jones (Secretary)
Katy Brown (Assistance Secretary)

29 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from:
Cllr David Baines, St Helens Council
Cllr Liz Grey, Wirral but Cllr Phil Gilchrist attended on her behalf
Cllr Steve Parish, Warrington
Cllr Lynn Riley, CWaC

30 **DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of personal interests.

31 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

32 **MINUTES**

Resolved: That

- (1) The minutes of the Liverpool Airport Consultative Committee meeting held on 18 September 2020 be agreed as a correct record; and**
- (2) The minutes of the Noise Monitoring Sub-Committee meeting held on 23 October 2020 be received and noted.**

33 **MEMBERSHIP**

The Secretary reminded members that the Constitution required members to be contacted if they failed to attend three consecutive meetings. He reported back that for neither Liverpool City Council and Halebank Parish Council had held meetings to appoint representatives so their vacancies would continue to appear.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Ken Dalton as the new Halewood Town Council representative.

34 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

35 **QUARTERLY BUSINESS REPORT**

Robin Tudor presented the update report for July to September to the Committee. August had seen an improvement on passenger numbers from the previous quarter's months but then the quarantine rules began to have an effect, restricting travel to all locations initially then became country specific and changing frequently at short notice which undermined passenger confidence. From April passenger numbers were 85% down which was similar to other airports. Staff and services had been cut back to limit costs, with staff furloughed where possible, but there was a minimum level which could not be avoided with air traffic control, security, maintenance etc. even though revenue was minimal. Many staff had been put on 3.5 days a week.

Members questioned Robin which drew out details including:

- Finances were tough but shareholders were taking a longer-term view and remained supportive
- The Airport believed that the airlines that operated from Liverpool were able to ride out the fallow period
- Freight had been very low in volume but it was hoped this would start to return soon

- Local authority funding had been used for refinancing in the Spring, unconnected with Covid

Robin continued and talked about the increase in general aviation when commercial air traffic was reduced, and about the effects of the removal of tax-free sales which accounted for about 20% of sales.

Resolved

That the quarterly Business Report be noted.

36 CUSTOMER SERVICES UPDATE

Christina Smith, Head of Customer Services, gave an update for July to September 2020. With less passenger numbers, enquiries, complainants' and bookings there were only 65% of normal contacts. She also noted that customers wanted some certainty for their plans which the Airport could not provide with accuracy. Staff had been furloughed and worked reduced hours to minimise costs, and the accessibility partner was operating with flexi-furlough and had made some redundancies but the service was still operational and had seen new clients.

Resolved: that the update be received.

37 ICCAN (INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON CIVIL AVIATION NOISE) REPORT

ICCAN were an organisation set up by the Government to look at noise around airports and they had published a questionnaire on their website (<https://iccan.gov.uk/>) about their role and aims and members of the Committee were invited to submit their views.

Members discussed the issue and pointed out that there were not similar organisations for other types of traffic noise so the focus on purely aircraft noise seemed out of balance. Also, Liverpool did not have the same amount or impact of noise as some other airports.

38 AIRSPACE CHANGE PROCESS

There was no progress to report on the Airspace Change Process.

39 CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary informed the Committee that the national organisation of Consultative Committees, UKACCS, were holding a virtual meeting on 15 December to discuss and share the situations at airports around the country, and they had asked for Committees to consider what they could do to help.

Robin Tudor acknowledged that it was difficult to know what members could do that would make a difference at present as the issues were national in nature (e.g. quarantine, taxation, testing). Lobbying when opportunities arose was the most proactive action that was always welcome, especially in terms of the ongoing lack of Government support for aviation, whether that's through local MP's or Minister's etc. He recognised that a distributed vaccine was the solution to enable life to return to normal, but the aviation industry would still take time to recover and financial support would be needed to help bridge the gap, either through: extension of furlough beyond the current scheme; business rates relief/holiday; the reversal of the decision to axe tax free shopping airside at airports from 1 Jan 2021; or other areas where the Airport incurred regulatory costs for example. Other industries had received sector specific support (e.g. hospitality) but aviation had received none, other than the furlough scheme.

The Chair noted that he could raise any issues passed to him at the meeting on 15 December.

40 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to be considered.

41 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Committee will be on 19 February 2021.