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LIVERPOOL JOHN LENNON AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Friday, 19 April 2024

PRESENT:

Councillor Bob Swann, Chair
Chris Ellams, Helsby Council
Councillor Doreen Knight, Liverpool Council
Councillor Keith Laird
Simon Osborne, National Trust
Councillor Steve Parish, Warrington Council
Steve Pearse, Friends of Liverpool Airport
Alex Naughton, LCRCA
Councillor Joe McNamara, Hale Council
Councillor Andy Walker, Lancashire Council
Councillor Graham Wood, Frodsham Council
Councillor Bill Woolfall, Halton Council
Liverpool John Lennon Airport
Robin Tudor, Head of Public Relations,
Secretariat
Mike Jones, Secretary

20 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillor Victoria Berry, Halewood Council
Councillor Tony Brennan, Knowsley;
Zafer Ceri, LAGAUA;
Norman Elias, Passenger rep
Councillor Lynn Gibbon, CWaC
Councillor Liz Grey, Wirral Council
Jordi Morell. Independent Passenger Rep

21 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of personal interests.

22 **MINUTES**

Members considered the minutes from the previous meeting. It was noted that the minutes of the Noise Monitoring of 19 January 2024 had already been received at the previous Consultative Committee. It was also noted that in item 11 of the Consultative Committee minutes, easyJet had actually based 7 aircraft at the airport rather than 5 and that Ryanair were basing 5.

Resolved:

That subject to it being noted that in item 11, easyJet have actually based 7 aircraft at the airport rather than 5, the minutes of the Liverpool Airport Consultative Committee meeting held on 16 February 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

23 MEMBERSHIP

The Secretary detailed changes in membership since the last meeting, which were that Liverpool Chamber of Commerce have appointed Olivia Hughes as their new representative.

24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

25 QUARTERLY BUSINESS REPORT

The Head of Public Relations presented the quarterly report for the period 1 January to 31 March 2024. There had been an overall 17% increase in passenger numbers compared to the same period in 2023 but still 12% down on 2019. Highlights of the report included:

- EasyJet had a 39% increase in passengers mainly due to an increase in winter capacity and an 76% load factor.
- Ryanair had increased passengers by 3% despite a reduction in routes.
- Wizzair had a 12% reduction in passenger numbers.
- Loganair had reduced routes to just the Isle of Man and saw a consequent 14% reduction in passenger numbers.
- Aer Lingus had an increased load factor of 79%.
- Play suspended their Reykjavik route in January as they have done previously, resulting in fewer passenger numbers. Their focus was on football related flights.
- Lufthansa had suspended their service to Frankfurt.
- Jet2 made a positive start to operations from Liverpool with flights to nine destinations and load factors of 99%.
- General Aviation had reduced 38% over the period compared to 2023.
- Jet2 had a large launch event which resulted in considerable press coverage. Their focus for promotion was on outbound flights.
- A new 'Welcome Kiosk' is due to be installed in July aimed at giving arriving visitors transport and tourism information.

Members questioned the level of connecting flights via Dublin to the USA with the airport hoping that potential future improved schedules would connect with more US flights.

The report was noted.

26 **CUSTOMER SERVICES UPDATE**

The Head of Public Relations presented the Customer Services Update. There were no major changes to report since the previous quarter. He noted that easyJet had changed to DHL as their handling agent and moved up the ranking of performance levels. Also, car park feedback complaints around technology had reduced following the installation of a new system.

The Update was noted.

27 **AIRSPACE CHANGE PROCESS**

The Head of Environment and Sustainability at the Airport gave the background and an update on the process for Airspace Change which the Airport was progressing. It was working alongside other organisation in the Manchester Terminal Manoeuvring Area, which included the airports of Manchester, Blackpool, East Midlands and Leeds-Bradford and also the National Air Traffic Control En Route Limited. Together, they had all reached a stage where there were some proposals for co-ordinating air traffic which required simulation testing. The testing had been set for June 2024.

The Update was noted.

28 **AIRPORT TRANSPORT FORUM**

The representative of the Friends Of Liverpool Airport provided an update on the agenda for the meeting of the Air Transport Forum that was scheduled for 26 April 2024. Items included:

- bus reform,
- climate action plan,
- local nature recovery strategy,
- spacial recovery strategy,
- Welcome kiosk;

It was noted that night access to the airport by public transport remained an unresolved issue.

29 **TOPICAL ITEM**

The Aviation Director provided an update on airline developments and new business.

He explained that passenger numbers had reduced during the covid pandemic from 5 million to 1 million per year, but there had been a steady increase since then, and numbers were predicted to return to pre-covid level by April 2025. He explained that of the 70 routes from Liverpool the busiest were Dublin, Belfast and the European holiday resorts. Performance was rated by occupancy with 81% average which had

increased since Covid. Liverpool Airport was the fastest growing airport in the UK by passenger increases. For the business, retail provided 70% of revenue, and there were several aircraft now based here - Ryanair had 5, EasyJet 7, Jet2.com 4 with a fifth planned. Jet 2 now had a business base and had an anticipated capacity of 800,000 passengers to 11 destinations overlapping with easyJet.

Members questioned the routes and any prospective target areas. They were informed that the removal by Lufthansa of the route to the hub airport Frankfurt was a blow but there was focus to develop routes to France, Croatia, Morocco and Germany.

30 **ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME**

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

31 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Chair informed the Committee that the weekly News Bulletin from the UK organisation of Consultative Committees (UKACCS) would be circulated to them.

32 **ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION WITH NOTICE**

There were no issues notified for discussion.

33 **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair announced that he would be stepping down for health reasons. He had been glad to serve the Committee and get to know the members involved. Norman Elias would step in as Deputy Chair until a replacement was elected at the next meeting.

Members and the Airport representatives thanked him for his service and wished him well.

34 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting was Friday 12 July 2024 at 10.30 am. The venue would be either the meeting room, Hampton by Hilton Hotel, Liverpool Airport, or a new Airport meeting room if it was available. Hybrid facilities may be possible in the new meeting room.
