

Stansted Airport
Independent Consultative Committee (ICC)
STACC
Wednesday 24th January 2024
Aerozone 1400-1600

Present:

Title	Name	Initial
Independent Chair	Shena Winning	Chair
Independent Secretariat	Mrs C Pull	CP

Organisation:

Title	Name	Initial
Essex County Council	Cllr Lee Scott	
WHICH?	Coral Lindfield	
Uttlesford Association of Local Councils	Cllr Jackie Cheetham	
Surface transport interests	John Pope	
Hertfordshire County Council	Cllr Graham McAndrew	GA
Surface Access Interests	Anthony Armon-Jones (Teams)	
Stansted Airport Watch	Brian Ross (Teams)	
ABTA	Julia Ogiehor (Teams)	
Essex County Council	Zhannine Smith	
Environmental interests	Aubrey Holt (Teams)	
Business Interests	John McGill (Teams)	
Hertfordshire Association of Local and Parish Councils	Cllr Alex Daar (Teams)	
Stansted Airport Chaplin	Reverend Peter Allan (Guest Speaker)	
East Hertfordshire District Council	Cllr Calvin Horner	
Uttlesford District Council	Cllr John Evans	
Passenger Interests	Gobi Ranganathan	GR

MAG:

Title	Name	Initial
Stansted Airport Managing Director	Gareth Powell	GP
Head of Community Engagement	Robert Pattison	RP
MAG CSR & Future Airspace Director	Neil Robinson	NR
Group Head of ESG Environmental Strategy	Adam Freeman	AF
MAG Strategic Planning & Investment Director	Alistair Andrew	AA
	Abby Cooper (Teams)	
MAG Communications Director	Adam Jupp	AJ
Strategic Planning and Investment	Andrew Thomson	

Apologies & Absences	Name	Initial
Aviation Technical Adviser	Andrew Huggins	

Braintree District Council	Cllr Richard Van Dulken	
Community Engagement Manager	Daniel Burford	
Surface Access Interests	Anthony Armon-Jones	

Agenda Item	Description
1	Apologies for Absence and Deputising Attenders Apologies and absences are recorded above.
2	Chairman's Introduction The Chair took a moment to highlight the loss and recent funeral of committee member Frank Evans. She thanked him for his long and loyal service to the committee and his friendship throughout the years. He will be sadly missed by all involved.
3	Minutes of Meeting held on The minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.
4	Matters Arising Action 14 from the previous meeting is carried forward to the next meeting. All other actions are complete. The Chair suggested having a separate log of actions to accompany the minutes. Members requested an update on the findings following the recent car park fire at Luton Airport. The Airport responded that there have been no reports sent and that an update will be provided when this information is available.
5	Guest presentation: Reverend Peter Allan Reverend Allan gave a presentation to the committee on the role of the Airport Chaplaincy Service for staff and passengers. The Chair thanked Rev Allan for an informative and interesting presentation. A member asked if there was consideration for additional multi-faith spaces in the terminal development plan. GP confirmed that this is being considered in the plans. Rev Allan welcomed contact from members with suggestions of potential contacts for multi-faith representatives as he has found it difficult to source people.
6	Report of Managing Director The report was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read. This was a very successful period for the Airport with the busiest December on record. A pop-up charity drive through cinema took place in December in the north side jet parks. The event was a great success, and the Airport are looking to make it an annual event. The Chair asked if there still plans to expand the Airport College. GP confirmed that the College is now in receipt of a council grant and Airport will work closely with them on the

	expansion. They are also evaluating if more can be done with this site to make it a permanent focus. A member complimented the Airport on their work assisting passengers with Aspergers and Autism. He received feedback from passengers who recently travelled and advised that it was the best Airport experience they'd had. GP thanked the member and will pass the comments on. A member praised the Airport on their new security and asked if they believe they will they meet the Government deadline. She raised the point on an issue with flooring at Heathrow. GP confirmed there are some similar issues with flooring at Stansted. The new equipment is very heavy, and work is underway to resolve these issues. He advised this is an aggressive timeframe and supply chain are only now stepping up to supply the required products. The Government process is looking at each airport and their delivery constraints. Space is the main issue at Stansted which will be an issue during the summer period. Building constraints on the airfield are also at play. There is constant communication with Government on the end date. The Airport would like this to be completed as soon as possible, with minimal impact on customers. The member is delighted that the Airport now has pushchairs available. GP thanked the member for her comments and said the Airport is working constantly to provide an excellent service. She also raised the issue of having to pay £1 for a trolley and asked if this is likely to remain. GP advised this is constantly under review with the view that the allocation of trolleys be correct throughout the Airport site. A new member asked about the purpose and nature of Stansted Airport College. GP outlined the nature aims and nature of the College and its courses, explaining that the majority of graduates went on to employment at the airport or onto higher education in the aeronautical field. The Chair commented that the Committee had previously had a presentation from the teachers and students of the college and that it would be valuable to have another presentation at a future meeting. A member raised the issue of dispensation for night flights and advised that the recent figures seem to indicate numbers for 2023 are above the permitted level. He asked the Airport to provide monthly figures on the number of night flights and dispensations going forward. NR responded that this issue and these points were discussed in depth at the last STACC meeting. The Airport is operating within the government guidelines and the limits that are set are seasonal and there are provisions to carry over from summer to winter. The reported numbers are true and these, the detail and data are available at EIG meetings and on the website. The Airport is always happy to provide more transparency. The night noise regime is up for consultation shortly and one thing that will be considered will be the dispensation regime, he advised members that now is the time to raise concerns. He noted that following an earlier successful planning application a night noise condition will be applied to Stansted giving a longer 8-hour noise limit period of protection. A quota count (QC) will be operationalised for the full 8-hour period. A commitment has been made in the new NAP to freeze the count at the level of those recorded in Summer 2022. This will continue through the period of expansion to 43 million passengers. NR agrees with the
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	member that night noise is a particularly sensitive topic for local residents and that these actions strike a reasonable balance. The DfT are consulting the dispensation rules as part of the night noise regime. The member asked for correct number of night movements to be shown going forward and stated that people are not interested in QC points. The Chair commented that QCs are the Government's required measure that will continue to be measured and reported. NR responded there are always different views and during the night the noisier aircraft are reported as being the problem. This is why the NAP has had a particular focus on the certain noisiest aircraft types. The NAP went further than Government regulation requirements on QC2 aircraft. This provides the right incentive for airlines to bring in quieter aircraft and airlines are investing heavily in this. A member suggested having a further column showing the number of dispensations to add to the QC figures. NR accepted the suggestion and is happy to provide further or different information on the report. The member stated that the new extended night period would not come in to force until 2026. NR stated that the Airport is bringing in the night period extension, a condition of reaching an annual passenger count of 35m, despite the fact that this number will not be reached by 2026. The current Government regime runs until winter 2025, new regime requirements will be integrated with the Airport's arrangements. A member congratulated the Airport on their accessibility performance and asked why there was such a large increase in activity in September 2023. GP advised that the peak requirements for assisted travel fall outside of the Airport's busiest period as a lot of passengers requiring assistance tend to travel outside of school holidays. The member asked if there is a report on assisted travel. GP confirmed there are monthly reports available on prebooked and non-prebooked assisted travel. The Airport will send the member a link to the information on the website. Action: Airport to send the member a link to the assisted travel reports on the website. Response: https://www.stanstedairport.com/help/special-assistance/feedback-and-performance/ GM reported that following a conversation with him and GR a member of the Airport's assistance team had taken a journey through the Airport in a wheelchair. He briefly fed back the experience and stated that he had asked for a full report at a future meeting of UEG. He also shared details of a visit to the Airport carried by himself and GR. They travelled by train and visited various areas of the Airport. GR commented that he was surprised that Airport staff are not meant to help with passenger's bags, as wheelchair users struggle in this area. GP replied that this may be due to the required relationship within the Airport of customers being in control of their bags. He was unsure if this is influencing the process so will find out and feedback. Both GR and GM left with the impression that staff were helpful. They will sit down with Airport staff and give feedback. One point they raised is that there are multi agencies within the Airport and suggested having a conference to get agencies together to discuss process and share ideas. The Chair suggested having an extended UEG to cover this topic. GP added that this is a good time to focus on this area with the upcoming redesign of the Airport to ensure partners and customers are brought together and will ensure UEG's involvement.
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	Action: Airport to find out the reason staff are not permitted to offer wheelchair users assistance with their luggage. Response: <i>If the assistance with luggage is in relation to a customer's disability and the assistance that they need then they should be offering / agreeing to support with luggage. This was addressed with ABM.</i> The member also asked for feedback on the Safe Forum which took place in December. GP advised this information can be provided if required. It was confirmed that GR will be a member of the forum for future meetings and will be feeding back to UEG and STACC meetings. A member asked about the future growth plans for the Airport's freight activity with particular reference to the type of aircraft being employed and the associated noise. He asked for confirmation that the operators using noisy aircraft are being disincentivised from using Stansted. GP explained the difference between freight and passenger operations. Freight operators work with the Airport through the slots they are allocated and the nature of the aircraft operating them. The number of night movements will naturally restrict freight growth due to the nature of freight operators using the Airport. He noted that the slot system is a national government system. NR added that freight operators are now using newer aircraft due to constraints on noise and emissions, however, manufacturers are behind on technology of freight aircraft therefore it is more difficult for operators to source quieter aircraft. The Airport can provide the right incentives through noise charges, and this is being looked at again in the NAP. The Airport is keen that only operators who really need to fly at night to do so and that they operate quieter aircraft. Stansted is a fully allocated Airport, and all slots are offered by an independent body. It's difficult to regulate the aircraft type used as airlines have a historic right to the slot. The Airport is limited to the extent additional controls can be implemented. A member asked some questions on the how the new security process would operate during the phased implementation. GP explained that extra colleagues are on hand across the Airport to try and achieve the 95% security target during the project. Regarding the question on communication around the new system, all customers should come prepared for old security system with liquids in clear plastic bags and electricals removed. There is signage and floor walkers are on site and passengers are approached in the queue and are informed if they are to use one of the new scanners. The member asked if the Airport is considering displaying security queue times online. GP advised this isn't something that is currently planned, but that the Airport is always working to improve and evolve. Real time measurement would not work due to the ongoing security project.
7	Airport Planning Update AA provided an update. Biodiversity net gains regulations come into force on the 12th of February 2024. The DfT were on site towards end of consultation period. The Airport lobbied significantly for a change to the regulations around aerodrome safeguarding and safety and were successful. Aerodrome safeguarding is mentioned, and the Airport will wait till implementation to see if enough net gain comes through from the planning system.

	A member asked about the construction management plan for solar farm and the increased traffic it will bring. AA confirmed that this was part of the planning conditions and that the site is large enough for all construction vehicles to park onsite.
8	Community Engagement update RP gave an update on Community Engagement. The slides will be circulated with the minutes. Praise was given to Daniel Burford by The Chair and members for his hard work and commitment to the Community Fund programme.
9	Working Groups The Transport forum was well attended. The Sustainable Development Plan is in the process of being finalised. A member asked if the Airport is pushing for some rail improvements in central London. JP advised they are focussing on Stratford which has seen greater impact following the opening of the Elizabeth Line. Another priority is to improve the coach facilities at Stratford and the committee are working on this with Transport for London. GM is attending a meeting on this next week. JP continues to work with Cross Country trains to improve services.
10	Benchmarking Report Following member feedback, the report has been trimmed down, focusses on environmental and is in budget. An update meeting is scheduled on Monday 29th January and GM requested an Airport representative. GP will arrange for someone to attend. The Chair added that there is now scope available in the budget to add more.
11	Stansted Transformation Project Engagement Planning AJ provided members with a presentation on the planned communication and engagement approach with the committee during the project. The slides will be circulated with the minutes. The Chair agrees that the detail in the presentation is a workable programme. A member asked how local residents will be kept up to date. AJ responded that many channels will be used to reach the public including newsletters and media. He is happy to take feedback onboard on additional methods as things progress. The Chair asked members to send any other comments to her and she will pass to the Airport.
12	Future Agenda Items for 2024 The Chair asked members to send her any suggestions for future agenda items.
13	Any other Business A discussion took place around the effects on the committee following the loss of Frank Evans. The Chair will put together a programme and panel to find a replacement.

12	Date and Time of Next Meetings plus Post Meeting Note 24th April 2024 26th June 2024 23rd October 2024 (AGM) Post meeting note - (referring to item 7) On 25 January Stansted Airport held its Noise and Track Keeping Working Group. The meeting was attended by Shena Winning, representing STACC. During the meeting the Department for Transport provided an update about forthcoming publications. This supersedes the information previously provided to the airport and passed to STACC at its meeting on 24 January. The Department for Transport confirmed that, in February 2024, it expects to publish two documents in parallel. These are: 1) A consultation on the Government's future night flight controls at London Stansted Airport and other designated airports This is expected to include the Government's response to previous consultations in 2020/21. 2) Updated guidance from the Department for Transport on night flight dispensations This has been developed in response to feedback received during the earlier 2020/21 consultation. The updated guidance is expected to come into effect from Winter 2025. The Airport had a workshop with Uttlesford officers on aerodrome safeguarding changes that are coming into place and how, where, and why the Airport the needs to be consulted. He advised for clarity that the Airport must see any planning applications within 55 nautical miles in a radius of the site and gave the reasons why. END
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