

Minutes of the Consultative Committee Meeting held at
Leeds Bradford Airport
Wednesday 4 December 2024

Members Present:

Alan Wrigley	Chairman
Cllr Paul Bone	Pool Parish Council
Heather Ruane	Leeds Bradford Airport Support Group
Cllr Penny Robinson	Otley Town Council
Cllr Bob Felstead	Burley & Wharfedale Parish Council
Alan Moore	Aireborough Neighbourhood Forum
Cllr John Howard	Bramhope & Carlton Parish Council
Brian Dunsby	Harrogate District Chamber of Commerce
Marilyn Banister	Menston Parish Council
Cllr Raymond Jones	Horsforth Town Council
Cllr Richard Knowles	Baildon Town Council
Cllr Colin Campbell	Local Resident Rep (Yeadon end of runway)
Keith Batty	Vale of York Gliding Clubs
Cllr Andrew Paraskos	North Yorkshire Council
Martin Hughes	Local Resident Rep (Horsforth end of runway)
Paul Moss	Sherburn Aero Club
Cllr Jools Heselwood	Leeds City Council
Cllr Michael Woods	Yorkshire Local Councils Association

Members Apologies:

Cllr Barry Anderson	Leeds City Council (Con)
Cllr Eleanor Thomson	Leeds City Council (Lab)
Cllr Angela Carr	Rawdon Parish Council – Sub: Cllr Peter Gable

Non Attendance:

Neil Whitaker	Unite the Union
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Airport Officers Present:

Vincent Hodder	Chief Executive Officer
Charles Johnson	Head of Planning Development
Joselyn Rankin	Head of Corporate Affairs & Sustainability
Tracey Stevenson	Sustainability Manager

Minutes taken by Rachel Hawkes (Business Support Manager & Senior Executive Assistant)

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chairman opened the meeting.

Apologies had been received ahead of the meeting from:

Cllr B Anderson
Cllr E Thompson
Cllr A Carr – deputy for today's meeting Cllr P Gable

2. Organisational Announcements /New Members

Charles Johnson advised the committee that Nicola McMullen, Aviation Director, had left the business to explore other opportunities. As an interim, Vincent Hodder will be stepping into the Aviation role until a replacement is found.

In addition, we are pleased to advise that Joselyn Rankin has joined LBA as Head of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability and will attend the ACC meetings going forward.

3. Joselyn Rankin, Head of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability Intro

Joselyn introduced herself to the committee advising that she joined LBA in October 2024, having previously worked in the construction and rail industry.

Joselyn expressed her desire to enhance overall business relationships and shared that she has gained valuable insights during her first eight weeks. She aims to strengthen business connections and ensure consistent communication.

A key focus will be advancing the sustainability agenda, which is one of her passions. Her day-to-day responsibilities will include public affairs, engaging with government, and ensuring LBA has a strong voice and is heard. Joselyn is committed to positioning LBA for long-term success.

Looking ahead, Joselyn plans to organize community engagement events in Spring 2025.

In a related update, she announced that Public Relations are looking to be managed in-house moving forward.

Q. It looks from reports in the media, that LBA are losing the battle of the night flights and that GALBA are in control.

JR: I am looking into this and trying to understand the comms as we do have a lot to say but we do have to be consistent. We would like our many third party supporters to speak out and show support.

Cllr Heselwood and Cllr Ray expressed an interest in meeting with Joselyn to understand the messaging around the night flights.

4. UKACC Annual Meeting Feedback

CJ provided feedback on the annual UKACC meeting that was held on the 14th and 15th of November 2024 at Weetwood Hotel in Leeds, with representatives from 15 airports in attendance. This marked the first time LBA has hosted the event since 1997.

Attendees participated in a site tour of the new terminal, which was met with positive feedback and enthusiasm for the development.

The two-day event featured presentations by Abigail Grenfell from the CAA on sustainability and JetZero, and Hugh Jones from the DfT.

Q. Did the DfT make any commitment on LBA's surface access strategy?

A. They didn't but it wasn't the intent of the day to focus on individual airport issues, more of a general update on the work they are doing with the aviation industry.

5. Aircraft Tracking & Noise Monitoring

Tracey Stevenson attended the meeting to update the committee on aircraft tracking and noise monitoring activities.

She reported that R14 departures continue to perform at 100% compliance, while R32 departures around 98%, primarily due to the curved departure. Despite this, R32 remains the preferred runway for both departures and arrivals, maintaining approximately a 70/30 usage split.

The noise monitoring data (collected between 7 am and 11 pm) recorded one nighttime breach. Upon investigation, no specific cause for this breach was identified. Encouragingly, noise complaints have decreased this year, with a total of 27 received across August and September, originating from just 10 individuals.

Q. How many complaints have been received from Horsforth?

A. Not many, we tend to see more from Headingley residents.

Q. Do you receive any noise complaints from the RAF aircraft?

A. None, in my whole time at LBA I have had just 1.

Q. Does the airport incentivise airlines in landing fees for quieter aircraft?

A. Yes, we do.

6. LBA:Regen Update

CJ provided the committee with an update on the progress of LBA:Regen. The building structure has been completed, with the steel framework and flooring now in place. Cladding is 90% finished, and the roof installation is complete.

In the baggage reclaim area, specialist steelwork installation is currently underway.

The project is progressing smoothly, and we are very pleased with the current status. Importantly, the works remain on schedule and within budget.

Q. What is happening with the stands?

A. The development is being completed in three phases. Phase 1 is the new extension, phase 2 the refurbishment of the current terminal and phase 3 stand development. Phase 2 & 3 are expected to commence around Feb 2025, with stand delivery being rolled out over several winter periods.

Q. When does Phase 1 complete?

A. Early May 25.

Q. How long is it expected for the current terminal to be refurbished?

A. Around 18 months.

7. CEO & Aviation Update

Vincent Hodder provided an update to the committee, highlighting that this has been LBA's busiest year to date. We are on track to welcome 4.3 million passengers, and our 12-month profitability as of September has exceeded £20 million.

He emphasised the need to increase earnings in the coming years to fund the various improvements planned for the airport. If we maintain our current performance trajectory, these improvements will be achievable.

Operational performance metrics are also showing significant progress. Employee satisfaction survey scores have improved, as have passenger scores with the latest score reaching 59—a clear indication that our investments are positively impacting customer experience.

However, VH noted a major industry-wide challenge with the revaluation of airport business rates. LBA has faced a staggering 600% increase in rates. We are taking a firm stance on the issue and engaging with relevant stakeholders as such costs are unsustainable for airports.

He also outlined several key developments currently underway:

- **Staff Parking:** Plans are in place to relocate staff parking to a more convenient location.
- **Vehicle Workshop:** A new vehicle workshop is being developed.
- **Vehicle Checkpoint:** Work is set to begin on strengthening the checkpoint floor to accommodate new scanners.
- **Sustainability Initiatives:** All light vehicles operated by LBA will be fully electric by the end of March 2025. Additionally, we are exploring self-power generation, including the introduction of solar energy solutions at the airport.

Night Movement Update

Three appeals have been lodged, including one relating to the rules for QC aircraft, which LCC haven't yet determined. A hearing is scheduled to take place in Leeds in March 2025, with Statements of Case due to the inspectorate by Friday, 6 December. A decision is hopefully expected in late June. LBA is eager to receive a resolution.

Q. How did your meetings with Loganair go?

A. The meetings went well, but airlines always have the final decision.

Q. Will there be an Aberdeen & Southampton route?

A. Initially the focus is London Heathrow, but there may be a second slot opportunity for a further route possibly to Southampton, Aberdeen or Newquay.

Q. What happens in March with the night flights?

A. Our position is clear and simple. We want a clear independent review of this and if we are unsuccessful and feel the end decision is a political view, then we will take it further.

Aviation Update

VH informed the committee that, following Nicola's departure from the business, the recruitment process for a new Aviation Director is underway. It is expected to take approximately 6–9 months. In the interim, Tom Holdsworth and Vincent will focus on airline sales.

Jet2 has committed to adding half an aircraft to their operations at LBA. This aircraft will operate a rotation to Luton (LTN) and return to LBA at the end of the day.

Additionally, we have seen growth in routes operated by EasyJet.

Both Ryanair and Wizz Air are continuing to face engine-related challenges, which are impacting their operations and limiting their capacity for growth.

Q. Is there any update on KLM?

A. Due to aircraft issues, KLM flights will operate on Eastern aircraft from the New Year.

8. Any Other Business

The committee requested a further update from Jamie Babbin re the Airspace change programme in due course.

Q. Is there an update on the timing for the new rail station?

A. WYCA have established a new Rail Alliance Board and a number of Project Boards for individual projects. These will be considering a 'Minimum Value Project' (MVP) proposal for the LBA Parkway scheme to try and bring the overall costs of the project down. The anticipated opening time is now 2028.

The chair closed the meeting.

Next meeting date

19th March 2025 @ LBA Media Suite 14.00-16.00