

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

Members Present:

Alan Wrigley	Chairman
Cllr Barry Anderson	Leeds City Council (Con)
Cllr Paul Bone	Pool Parish Council
Cllr Eleanor Thomson	Leeds City Council (Lab)
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
Cllr Angela Carr	Rawdon Parish Council
Brian Dunsby	Harrogate District Chamber of Commerce
Marilyn Banister	Menston Parish Council
Cllr Raymond Jones	Horsforth Town Council
Cllr R Knowles	Baildon Town Council
Cllr Colin Campbell	Local Resident Rep (Yeadon end of runway)
Keith Batty	Vale of York Gliding Clubs

Members Apologies:

Martin Hughes	Local Resident Rep (Horsforth end of runway)
Cllr Andrew Paraskos	North Yorkshire Council
Neil Whitaker	Unite the Union

Non Attendance:

Cllr Michael Woods	Yorkshire Local Councils Association
Paul Moss	Sherburn Aero Club
Cllr Jools Heselwood	Leeds City Council

Airport Officers Present:

Vincent Hodder	Chief Executive Officer
Charles Johnson	Head of Planning Development
Jamie Babbitt	Head of Air Traffic Control
Nathan Stephenson	Travel Trade & Community Engagement Executive

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:

Martin Hughes
Neil Whitaker
Cllr Andrew Paraskos

2. Organisational Announcements /New Members

There were no organisational announcements to make the committee aware of.

Cllr Barry Anderson will be replacing Cllr Paul Alderson.

3. Airspace Change Programme Update

Jamie Babbin provided the committee with an update on the current status of the Airspace Change Program. Unfortunately, LBA did not pass the most recent gateway. A meeting with the CAA has subsequently taken place who offered feedback on where the proposal fell short, though some aspects remain unclear. We are however, confident in our understanding of the current positioning.

We've also been advised to take Doncaster Sheffield Airport into account, which could potentially lead to additional delays. Manchester Airport's process has been put on hold until the position with LBA & DSA is resolved.

Our next gateway is scheduled for February 2025, and we are positive that progress will be made at this time.

Q. Is there anything LBA can do to engage with Manchester Airport?

A. We have engaged with MAN, the collaboration at technical level is very good.

4. Travel Trade Engagement

Nathan Stephenson, Travel Trade Executive, attended the meeting following a request made at the July session.

Nathan recently transitioned into this role after spending several years in various customer-facing positions at LBA. This is a newly reintroduced role, as it has been vacant since 2019. In his role, Nathan visits travel agents, provides training, and offers support to help agents to book through LBA. In the short time he's been in the position, significant progress has been made in strengthening relationships with travel agents.

Q. At the last meeting, it was discussed that travel agents don't recommend LBA as the departure airport. What is being done to stop this?

A. We are conducting a questionnaire to understand the concerns the agents have and will work on a plan of how to change this.

The majority of the Executive Team have joined Nathan on the road and the consistent feedback from agents tends to be the pricing with Jet2 is cheaper at other airports than LBA.

Q. Presumably when the extension is complete, you will get more capacity with Jet2?

A. Hopefully, although there is sufficient capacity for Jet2 to grow at the moment, the new extension may change minds.

5. LBA:REGEN

Steve Hudson, Programme Director attended the committee to provide an update on the LBA:REGEN project.

Key points:

- Roof construction began in August 2024.
- Installation of the new baggage handling system will start in November 2024.
- IT infrastructure work will begin in the next few months.
- Phase 1 is scheduled for completion and operation by May 2025.
- Phase 2 will commence in February 2025.

Q. Are you on-time?

A. Yes, on time and on budget.

6. Aviation Update

In the absence of Nicola McMullen, Vincent gave an update on Aviation to the committee.

Over the past three months, we handled 1.5 million passengers, with last week being our busiest reaching 120,000 passengers.

We experienced some capacity loss with Wizz due to ongoing engine issues, which are expected to be resolved within 12 to 24 months.

Our top four routes were Palma, Alicante, Faro, and Dublin.

EasyJet has introduced two new routes: Paris and Geneva.

Looking ahead to next year, we anticipate all airlines will increase their capacity.

We are currently exploring options for a Saudia flight and have approached airlines regarding a potential winter schedule for next year.

Additionally, we are collaborating with Loganair to explore possible routes to Aberdeen, Southampton, and London Heathrow.

Q. Pleased to hear about the London Heathrow route, Southampton is the cruise line.

A. Yes, the trade are calling out for a route.

Q. Are Loganair considering other Scottish routes?

A. They will listen to feedback.

Q. Do Loganair have a code share?

A. Yes, they have a code share agreement in place with BA.

Q. What about Newquay?

A. That's another possible option to explore.

Q. Is the Easyjet route to Charles De Gaulle just winter?

A. It is published as just winter at the moment, but we are hopeful it will be extended to be year round.

Q. Would Loganair use Terminal 5 at LHR?

A. Unlikely, there is a direct bus service between terminals.

7. CEO Update

Vincent proceeded with a CEO update to the committee. He shared that discussions with the council regarding the night movement are still in progress, but a response is expected within the next few days concerning the first two certificates. While the council has requested an additional delay for the remaining certificates, we have declined, as we are eager to have the matter concluded.

Vincent informed the group that a new Head of Corporate Affairs & Sustainability will be joining LBA in October. This is a newly created position, and the new role will engage on community noise.

We have redone the noise contours around the airport and whilst we are still pulling together the detail, the headline is on almost all metrics the number of people impacted by noise has reduced.

Q. I get more complaints about noise when the wind changes. It would be helpful to have some information to be able to share with residents.

A. Yes, we do get this a lot. We will share further context.

Q. Sometimes, people don't understand the routes taken by military aircraft.

A. We will include this education in our talks.

Vincent confirmed that our Vision 2030 has now gone public, feedback so far has been positive.

8. Any Other Business

Q. Any update on the Parkway Train Station?

A. No developments, Charles Johnson has made contact with Leeds City Council however, the latest date for opening is 2027.

The chair closed the meeting.

Next meeting date

04 December 2024 – LBA Media Suite, 14.00-16.00