

**BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
4 MARCH 2021 AT 1.30 PM (VIRTUAL)**

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Present: Mr Colin Flack OBE – Chairman

In attendance from Birmingham Airport Company:

Nick Barton	-	Chief Executive
Kirstin McCarthy	-	Head of Sustainability
Andy Holding	-	Corporate Responsibility Manager
Nikki Bains	-	Head of Planning, Transport and Strategy
Tom Redfern	-	Environment Manager

In attendance from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council:

Mr L Stevenson	-	Representing the ACC Secretariat
Daniel Patel	-	Solihull MBC Business Admin Apprentice

ABTA	-	Mrs S Foxall
Balsall Common Village Residents Association	-	Mr D Ellis
Balsall Parish Council	-	Cllr K Tindall
Barston Parish Council	-	Mr D Elliott
Berkswell Parish Council	-	Cllr R Lloyd
Birmingham City Council	-	Cllr M Ward
Birmingham City Council	-	Cllr D Donaldson
Catherine de Barnes Residents Association	-	Mr D Cuthbert
Consumers Association	-	Mr P Orton
Coventry City Council	-	Cllr C Miks
Hampton in Arden Parish Council	-	Cllr D Sandells
Hampton Society	-	Mr M Blomer
Marston Green Residents Association	-	Mr J Fox
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	-	Cllr R Sleigh OBE
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	-	Mrs B Hill
Staffordshire County Council	-	Cllr M Deaville
Passengers Representative	-	Mrs R Tyler

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Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	- Councillor J Murray
Warwick District Council	- Cllr G Illingworth
Warwickshire County Council (Substitute)	- (Parish) Cllr R Habgood
Wolverhampton City Council	- Cllr C Hibbert
<i>Microsoft Teams Name "MaM"(Guest)</i>	- <i>Unknown</i>

Apologies were received on behalf of: -

Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council	- Cllr J Horton
Birmingham Airport Company	- Stuart Haseley-Nerjup
Fordbridge Town Council	- Cllr L Sorrell
Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP	- Mr M Lyons
Kingshurst Parish Council	- Cllr D Cole
Knowle Society	- Mrs E Baker
North Warwickshire Borough Council	- Cllr T Clews
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr J Taylor
Warwickshire County Council	- Cllr D Reilly
Wychwood Club	- Mr G Heaps

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman welcomed Members of the Committee and representatives from the Airport Company. Attendance and apologies were as noted by the Secretary and the Airport Company.

**RESOLVED**

That the Chairman's welcome be noted.

**2. CHAIRMANS UPDATES**

The Chairman provided an update on the most recent meeting of UKACCs as well as the work stemming from ICCAN; the strengthened working relationship with the DfT; and a forthcoming meeting with Robert Courts MP, Minister for Aviation.

The Committee was also advised of work, at an early stage, with the DfT to review their future relationship with ACC's in light of the valuable resources that they have now become. The Chairman undertook to keep the Committee informed as this work progressed.

To support this verbal update, a copy of the Minutes from the meeting of the Liaison Group of UKACC's, held on 15 December 2020, was submitted for information.

**RESOLVED**

That the Chairman's update be welcomed and noted.

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**3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, held on 30 December 2020, were submitted. In response to a question, In response to a question posed by Mr David Ellis, the Airport Company (Tom Redfern) also summarised the trial into steeper approaches being undertaken at Heathrow Airport (and there being no detailed update to report back to the Committee at this time).

**RESOLVED**

The Minutes of the last meeting be agreed as a correct record.

**4. PRE-SUBMITTED QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE & MATTERS ARISING**

The Committee was advised that, on this occasion, there were no pre-submitted questions.

**RESOLVED**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**5. AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT**

The Airport Company (Nick Barton) - presented the new format of the Airport Activities report for the period October to December 2020. The report set out updates on the following matters:

- Passenger Statistics.
- ATM's
- Aviation Development.
- Key Stakeholder Engagement.
- Complaints Statistics.
- PRM Performance.
- Customer Satisfaction.
- Social Media.
- Security Wait Times.
- Immigration Performance.
- Baggage Delivery Performance.
- Cleaning Performance.
- On-time Turnaround Performance.

**General Updates**

When introducing the report, Mr Barton drew the Committee's attention to a number of additional headline issues pertaining to the ongoing impact of Covid-19 since his last detailed briefing to the Committee in December last year:

- Current government restrictions and the ongoing impact on the Airport.
- The ongoing effect of losing commercial passenger volumes on the business.
- A recap of the two business restructuring exercises, their timescales and outcomes.
- A further interim exercise to reduce operating hours in advance of a pandemic recovery.
- The effect of the third lockdown, the removal of air-bridges and the creation of red-list countries.

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- Permitted travel into the UK and requirements to do so (testing and quarantine).
- Port-of-entry operations.
- Passenger travel from red-list countries and quarantine hotel requirements.
- Ongoing costs associated with keeping the Airport operational and initiatives to reduce those operating costs as much as possible.
- Potential reduction in night-time runway use during April and May.
- Government plans to ease lockdown and business recovery planning.
- AOA work-streams.
- Vaccine effectiveness.
- Passenger pre-departure testing and health certification.
- Local Authority shareholder support.
- Business Rates support.
- AAIB Incident Report.

**Discussion Points**

Warwick District Council (Cllr G Illingworth) – asked if the port-of-entry operations were helping Birmingham Airport commercially and what effects, if known, were other airports experiencing who had not been approved for this purpose. Mr Barton explained that it was positive for Birmingham and allowed the business to make an important contribution to the challenges the country was facing.

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr D Cuthbert) – asked for an update on the employees that had been seconded to Mitie and also what future holiday bookings were looking like at this point in time. Mr Barton advised that the 74 employees who had been seconded to the new HMRC Inland Border were still there and would be brought back into the business as the pandemic recovery progressed. Future bookings were often triggered by Government announcements and Mr Barton highlighted two such recent events that had seen notable spikes in bookings.

Coventry City Council (Cllr C Miks) – asked if increasing cargo (on passenger flights) would generate more income as a future option to support the recovery of the business. Mr Barton explained that this type of operation was usually limited to long-haul destinations – Emirates and Turkish Airlines currently operated from Birmingham in this way. Cargo operations were useful, albeit a tiny element of Birmingham's overall commercial business.

Wolverhampton City Council (Cllr C Hibbert) – welcomed the report and was saddened to hear of the continued reduction in passenger volumes at this point in time. Cllr Hibbert also asked for an update on the future implications, if any, of the UK leaving the EU and international flights that would previously have been routed via Birmingham. Mr Barton reassured the Committee that the concern raised regarding down-route disruption would be taken away and considered. Cllr Hibbert also received a general update on the effects of the staff restructuring and what the future might look like from a business model perspective once the pandemic recovery got underway.

Staffordshire County Council (Cllr M Deaville) – thanked the Airport Company for the decisions taken over the last 12 months to safeguard the business for the future benefit of the region. Cllr Deaville asked if there had been any updates given by Emirates as to their future plans and was advised that the airline was very committed to Birmingham. Service announcements were encouraging although Dubai was currently on the Government's red-list which was hindering any further recovery at this stage.

Warwickshire County Council (Substitute) (Parish Cllr R Habgood) – asked if anything was known regarding flight schedules attributed to Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games from the long-haul Commonwealth countries. Cllr Habgood suggested that future updates to

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the Committee could cover this topic. Mr Barton advised that there had been very little information, to date, although this was expected to change in the near future. The Committee was also advised of the operational considerations and the measures in place to facilitate passenger movements for this event.

Coventry City Council (Cllr C Miks) – highlighted the Coventry City of Culture 2021 restart planned for May and asked if any signage to the City was being provided by the Airport for visitors arriving in the region. Mr Barton advised that the Airport would be supporting the event as an obvious gateway for such an important regional event.

### **Planning Updates**

The Airport Company (Nikki Bains) reported on the following headline issues:

- HS2 and their current development/employee recruitment programme.
- Regional developments - planning considerations for aerodromes.
- HMRC Inland Border facility – ancillary use to provide HGV driver Covid-19 testing.
- Castle Hills Farm and the current situation in regards to the recent fire.

### **Customer Service Updates**

Owing to his heavy workload, both with the Airport Company and the NHS, Stuart Haseley-Nerjup did not provide a quarterly update for Customer Experience on this particular occasion.

### **RESOLVED**

That the contents of the Airport Activities Report for the period October to December 2020 be received and noted.

## **6. SUSTAINABILITY REPORT**

The Airport Company (Tom Redfern) presented the Sustainability Report for the period October to December 2020. The report set out updates on the following matters:

- Sustainability Update.
- Noise Violations.
- Night Flying Policy.
- Engine Ground Running.
- Air Traffic.
- Aircraft Activity Complaints.
- Air Quality.
- Waste (Recycled).
- Energy.

### **Discussion Points**

Balsall Common Village Residents Association (Mr D Ellis) – highlighted that some information within the report appeared to have been omitted in relation to when noise violations had taken place. Mr Redfern updated the Committee as to which incidents were attributable to daytime ATM's and which were attributable to night-time.

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr D Cuthbert) – highlighted the types of concerns that had been received and asked how many were deemed legitimate concerns, such as track keeping. Mr Redfern advised that all concerns received from residents were

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considered as legitimate and investigated accordingly – typically based on the complainant's perception of the issue being raised.

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (Cllr R Sleigh OBE) – highlighted the concerns associated with Antonov ATM's and the issues faced by residents living in the local area who were disturbed by the use of this aircraft type in the early morning. Additionally, Cllr Sleigh highlighted the perception of an increase in recent engine ground running. Mr Redfern acknowledged the concerns raised and commented on the ongoing monitoring of the known issues associated with the Antonov aircraft.

**RESOLVED**

That the contents of the Sustainability Report for the period October to December 2020 be received and noted.

**7. NOISE SUB-GROUP UPDATE**

Since the last meeting, the Committee's Noise Sub-Group had met with the Airport Company on a number of occasions and the Committee was provided with a full update on that work-stream. Minutes of the Sub-Group were also included within the agenda for their October 2020, January 2021 and February 2021 meetings.

In support of the update, the Airport Company (Kirstin McCarthy) gave a PowerPoint presentation which set out a summary of the Group's recent work, its conclusions and future timeline for the new Night Flying Policy to become effective.

**Proposal**

As a result of the work undertaken, the Airport Company's proposal for the 2021 Night Flying Policy Review was:

- Policy effective between 31 October 2021 until 28 October 2024.
- Maintain all aspects of existing Policy.
- Combine the Daytime Noise Limit Review with the Night Flying Policy Review – 2024.
- Quarterly monitoring via the ACC.
- Annual review (or earlier if triggered).
- Triggers or circumstances for review: (i) significant increase in community concerns; (ii) outcome of National NFP Review; (iii) commercial challenges; and (iv) issues associated with the Departure Cap.

**Discussion Points**

Passengers Representative and Vice-Chairman (Mrs R Tyler) – endorsed what had been presented by the Airport Company by way of introduction to this item and commended the proposal being recommended to the Committee.

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr D Cuthbert) – highlighted previous commitments that in 2018 the quota count would not be reviewed at that time and set aside until the next Review. Additionally, there had also been a commitment to investigate a 81dB(A) night noise violation limit in the next review. Mrs McCarthy stated that the Airport Company was still fully committed to reviewing those two issues and that would now form part of the 2024 Review. Mr Cuthbert suggested that the feasibility investigation into the 81dB(A) noise limit should begin as soon as practicable in readiness for the 2024 Review.

Warwick District Council (Cllr G Illingworth) – thanked the Sub-Group for the work undertaken.

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (Cllr R Sleigh OBE) – sought clarification on the response to the national consultation on night flying policy. Mrs McCarthy explained the

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approach to the consultation (two parts) and clarified that Birmingham Airport had until the end of May 2021 to respond to the “national” element of the consultation and that further work would be undertaken by the Sub-Group to assist with the formulation of that response. Cllr Sleigh also spoke in support of the NFP in place at Birmingham.

Passengers Representative and Vice-Chairman (Mrs R Tyler) – formally put the proposal to the Committee for a decision and also reaffirmed the future work of the Sub-Group in respect of Cllr Sleigh’s comments as recorded above.

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr D Cuthbert) – requested a copy of the Airport Company’s presentation.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) The Committee extend their thanks to those Members who participated in the 2021 Night Flying Policy Review;
- (ii) That the update on the recent work undertaken by the Committee’s Noise Sub-Group be received and noted;
- (iii) The Committee supports the proposal for the 2021 Night Flying Policy Review as detailed above; and
- (iv) That the future work intended for the Committee’s Noise Sub-Group be endorsed.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Airport Company (Tom Redfern) – updated the Committee as to the number of responses that ICCAN had received to their recent consultation. Their report would be published in the very near future.

**RESOLVED**

That the agenda item noted.

**9. DATES OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting would be Thursday 03 June 2021 at 13.30hrs. The format of the meeting would be confirmed nearer the time.

**RESOLVED**

That the date of the next meeting be noted.