

**BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
1 DECEMBER 2022 AT 1.30 PM**

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Present: Mr Colin Flack OBE – Chairman

In attendance from Birmingham Airport Company:

Nick Barton	-	Chief Executive
Andy Holding	-	Corporate Responsibility Manager
Rosie Bishop	-	Sustainability Specialist
Sam Parkes	-	Sustainability Assistant
Matt Wilshaw-Rhead	-	BAATL Safety & Compliance Manager
Tom Denton	-	Head of Sustainability
Jon Davies	-	Energy and Carbon Manager

In attendance from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council:

Mr L Stevenson	-	Representing the ACC Secretariat
Berkswell Parish Council	-	Cllr R Lloyd
Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council	-	Cllr J Horton
Birmingham City Council	-	Cllr T Huxtable
Castle Bromwich Parish Council	-	Cllr J Macdonald
Catherine de Barnes Residents Association	-	Mr D Cuthbert
Chelmsley Wood Town Council	-	Cllr S MacDonald
Consumers Association	-	Mr T Baker
Fordbridge Town Council	-	Cllr D Cole
Hampton in Arden Parish Council	-	Cllr D Sandells
Kingshurst Parish Council	-	Cllr M Dawson
Knowle Society	-	Mrs E Baker
North Warwickshire Area Committee of Parish Councils	-	Cllr R Habgood
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	-	Cllr J Butler
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	-	Cllr R Grinsell
Passengers Representative	-	Mrs R Tyler

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
1 DECEMBER 2022 AT 1.30 PM

Warwick District Council	- Cllr G Illingworth
Wychwood Club	- Mr G Heaps

Apologies were received on behalf of: -

ABTA	- Mrs S Foxall
Airport Company	- Stuart Haseley-Nerjup
Airport Company	- Nikki Bains
Balsall Parish Council	- Cllr K Tindall
Barston Parish Council	- Mr D Elliott
Birmingham City Council	- Cllr C Green
Coventry City Council	- Cllr C Miks
Sheldon Residents Association	- Mrs M Kennett
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr P Kaur

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN 2022/2023

In accordance with Section 7.4 of the Committee's Constitution, the Committee was advised that the Airport Company had invited Mr Colin Flack OBE to continue with his appointment as Independent Chairman of the Airport Consultative Committee for 2022/23 and to hold office for a further 12 months until the next Annual General Meeting, subject to the endorsement of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That, the appointment of Mr Colin Flack OBE as Independent Chairman of the Airport Consultative Committee for a further 12 months be endorsed.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIRMAN

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

RESOLVED

That, the Chairman's welcome and recorded apologies be noted.

3. ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Nominations and seconders were sought for the position of Consultative Committee Vice-Chairman for 2022/23 to hold office for 12 months until the next Annual General Meeting.

RESOLVED

That, Mrs Rosemary Tyler be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Airport Consultative Committee for 2022/23.

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
1 DECEMBER 2022 AT 1.30 PM

4. CONSTITUTION, TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP FRAMEWORK ANNUAL REVIEW

The Committee was invited to approve and adopt its existing Constitution, Terms of Reference and Membership Framework for a further 12 months. No changes were proposed for 2022/23.

RESOLVED

That, the Committee's Constitution, Terms of Reference and Membership Framework be approved and adopted for 2022/23.

5. ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF STEERING GROUP MEMBERS

The Committee was invited to appoint, from its membership, its Steering Group Members for 2022/23. The Chairman highlighted that future Steering Group meetings would continue to be held virtually via Teams.

One vacancy existed for 2022/23 and two expressions of interest were received during the course of the meeting. The Chairman subsequently indicated that both would be welcome.

RESOLVED

That, the following five ACC appointments be confirmed for 2022/23:

- Mr D Cuthbert - representing Catherine de Barnes Residents Association;
- Cllr J Horton - representing Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council;
- Cllr R Habgood - representing North Warwickshire Area Committee of Parish Councils;
- Cllr M Dawson - representing Kingshurst Parish Council; and
- Cllr J Macdonald - representing Castle Bromwich Parish Council.

6. APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES TO THE BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT COMMUNITY TRUST FUND

The Committee was invited to appoint, from its membership, its Community Trust Fund Members for 2022/23. The Chairman advised that there were no proposed changes to the Committee's appointments for the coming year.

RESOLVED

That, the following ACC appointments be confirmed for 2022/23:

- Mr D Cuthbert - representing Catherine de Barnes Residents Association;
- Mrs M Kennett - representing Sheldon Resident's Association; and
- Mrs Mo Ball - representing Shard End Communities.

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
1 DECEMBER 2022 AT 1.30 PM

7. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, held on 1 September 2022, were submitted. The Chairman highlighted the previous discussion relating to commercial helicopter operations and the follow-up enquiry to be made to Air Traffic Control regarding flight data. The Airport Company (Rosie Bishop) advised that work was ongoing to consider how best to analyse (and report) commercial helicopter movements and track keeping. The Airport Company undertook to provide another update once this work had progressed further, either via email or at the next ACC in the new year.

RESOLVED

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

8. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The Chairman provided his regular update to the Committee on current industry issues and his role as Chairman of UKACC's which included his observations on the recently held UKACC's Annual Meeting of Chairman and Secretaries.

A supplementary paper was also circulated which set out the work of UKACCS in 2021/22 and highlighted the key areas of focus of the UKACCS Working Group together with an indicative Work Programme for the period 2022 – 2024.

RESOLVED

That, the Chairman's update be received and noted.

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

The Committee was advised that, on this occasion, two pre-submitted questions had been received from Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr D Cuthbert) as follows:

1. Question: Small and large aircraft baggage handling delivery times - why are the figures getting worse? Answer: "Baggage delivery has continued to be a challenge this summer, mainly driven by aircraft being off schedule and a lack of labour within the ground handling teams. Airport infrastructure has also challenged delivery with all flights operating into the north terminal post covid, creating congestion in the arrivals area at times. To address this we are looking to appoint dedicated airport supervision within the arrivals area from early next year to help coordinate and improve service delivery."
2. Question: OTT - these figures not improving. Can the reasons given be explained please (i.e., ATC restrictions/rotational issues)? Answer: "In relation to OTT, aircraft rotation is essentially late arrival of the operating aircraft. ATC restrictions have been in place this summer both over London airspace and central Europe, for flights passing through French airspace. Recruiting crew has been a challenge post covid, resulting in a lack of standby crew to pick up last minute shortages."

RESOLVED

That, the contents of the report be noted.

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
1 DECEMBER 2022 AT 1.30 PM

10. AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT

The Airport Company (Nick Barton) - presented the Airport Activities report for the period July to September 2022. The report set out updates on the following matters:

- Passenger Statistics.
- ATMs
- 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 several additional headline issues. In summary, these included:

- Proposed industrial action by UK Border Force and the planning that was underway to minimise the potential disruption to the aviation and freight industries.
- Since the last meeting, the anticipated recovery of the business had been maintained. For September 2022, passenger numbers were just over 82% of those seen in September 2019. October 2022 passenger numbers represented 88% in comparison with October 2019 and November 2022 saw 81% in comparison with November 2019 (November being the quietest month historically). Mr Barton confirmed that the above figures represented very good news for the business overall and the return to profitability.
- The impact of the cost-of-living crisis was not yet being seen by the business. Work was being undertaken to compare data with that of similar businesses and other airports to anticipate what that impact might be and when it would occur. Currently, there was a high level of confidence that any impacts would be minimal as bookings for the current winter season and the metrics for the start of the Summer 2023 season were encouraging.
- All sectors of travel were now operating at very good levels including business, leisure and VFR (visiting friends and relatives). In respect of business travel, recent passenger analysis data obtained from an airline operator had confirmed a strong return for business use.
- The security queuing challenges seen at the beginning of Summer 2022 had now almost entirely gone. Busy periods still existed on Monday and Friday mornings and security queue times were currently reported as 24 minutes during the peak on those mornings.
- Performance for Passengers with Reduced Mobility (PRM's) was now much improved in comparison with the Summer months (October 2022 performance was 97.2% - just exceeding the 97% target. November 2022 performance was 99.3%).

**BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
1 DECEMBER 2022 AT 1.30 PM**

- New security standards would take effect in June 2024, which meant new (Industry Standard 3) machines would need to be installed and commissioned by that deadline. The main building work for a £30M project would commence in January 2023 to construct a new Security Hall.
- Recruitment issues that affected the Summer 2022 season had now been resolved and recruitment/resource planning was well underway in readiness for the Summer 2023 season.
- Winter maintenance operations for the coming winter had all been readied in preparation for freezing temperatures and/or snowfall.

Discussion Points

Solihull MBC (Cllr J Butler) – highlighted ongoing recovery and growth and asked for an update on the return of Qatar Airlines to Birmingham and general route development (including freight). The Airport Company (Nick Barton) explained that, for passengers, there was a high level of confidence that routes and passenger numbers would return to pre-Covid levels. Increases in oil prices had not caused any significant feedback from the industry as airlines had already changed their yield profile on their ticket prices. Some markets, such as China, were still heavily restricted albeit route confidence was still strong once those restrictions were removed. Qatar Airlines still had the previously reported fleet issues which were currently being resolved with their aircraft supplier.

Solihull MBC (Cllr R Grinsell) – asked what the Airport Company was doing to develop new routes with new carriers to destinations not currently served by Birmingham Airport. The Airport Company (Nick Barton) advised the Committee of the ongoing intensive work undertaken by the business to develop new routes and the potential for, e.g., a new future transatlantic service to New York subject to new aircraft being manufactured and supplied. Supply chain issues were still severely impacting the manufacturing of new aircraft and the maintenance of existing ones. For the latter, a shortage of simple maintenance components (e.g. such as toilet fans) meant aircraft were grounded.

Chelmsley Wood Town Council (Cllr S MacDonald) – stated that she had heard that Jet2 was to fully use air bridges rather than steps, which would be of wider benefit to PRM's and the use of wheelchairs. The Airport Company (Nick Barton) stated that where airlines chose to use air bridges, they would be put on-stand and serviced in that way. A number of airlines did not favour air bridges and, in those instances, PRM's would utilise new equipment such as an Aviramp (or recently procured mini-Aviramps). This was in addition to Ambulifts that had been used for some time to service PRM's – both options now giving greater resilience to passenger services.

RESOLVED

That, the contents of the Airport Activities Report for the period July to September 2022, be received and noted.

11. SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

The Airport Company (Tom Denton, Rosie Bishop and Jon Davies) presented the Sustainability Report for the period July to September 2022. The report set out updates on the following matters:

- Sustainability Update.
- Noise Violations.
- Night Flying Policy.
- Engine Ground Running.
- Air Traffic.

**BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
1 DECEMBER 2022 AT 1.30 PM**

- Aircraft Activity Complaints.
- Air Quality.
- Waste (Recycled).
- Energy.

Discussion Points

North Warwickshire Area Committee of Parish Councils (Cllr R Habgood) – emphasised the importance of good data and timely communication with communities likely to be affected by aircraft noise and track keeping. This allowed ACC members to relay credible information back to residents in response to comments and complaints regarding airport operations.

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr D Cuthbert) – highlighted that since 2017, tracking keeping performance had been good. The Airport Company were asked if and when more challenging targets might now be introduced. The Committee was advised (Rosie Bishop) that this could be considered as part of the forthcoming review of the Noise Action Plan and the Committee's views and input would be welcome.

Solihull MBC (Cllr J Butler) – highlighted that there were other factors such as weather conditions that contributed to aircraft noise and the perception of aircraft noise, other than the flown routes themselves, and were beyond the control of the Airport Company.

Castle Bromwich Parish Council (Cllr J Macdonald) – asked if information was available to show a breakdown of complaints via geographical areas such as the community he represented. The Airport Company (Andy Holding) advised that a piece of work could be undertaken to highlight the geographical origins of the complaints and he would report back to Cllr Macdonald to enable him to have that information to hand for his residents.

Hampton in Arden Parish Council (Cllr D Sandells) – highlighted the usefulness of such data as residents often had the perception that aircraft were flying directly overhead, whereas in many complaints, this was proven not to be the case.

Post meeting note:

[Following the meeting, it was discovered that some of the information contained within the Corporate Responsibility section of the report (Airport Community Trust Fund Awarded Grants) was inaccurate. A corrected version of the awarded grants table is attached as Appendix A to these Minutes.]

RESOLVED

That, the contents of the Sustainability Report for the period July to September 2022, be received and noted.

12. PRESENTATION ITEM – CARBON PILLAR

The Airport Company (Tom Denton) advised the Committee of the recent launch of Birmingham Airport's new individual Strategic Pillar for Carbon which aimed to deliver a sustainable airport and support the reduction in the business's carbon emissions to NetZero by 2033. Mr Denton delivered a PowerPoint presentation to support this agenda item.

Discussion Points

Castle Bromwich Parish Council (Cllr J Macdonald) – asked if, as part of the journey towards NetZero, the Airport Company would be trying to further discourage car usage for passengers using the airport. The Airport Company (Tom Denton) advised that would be considered as part of the Airports surface access strategy. Such a scenario was a difficult balance as there was a commercial and financial benefit to the business in the provision of

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
1 DECEMBER 2022 AT 1.30 PM

car parking. Mr Denton highlighted that the “greening” of the private car was happening at pace in contrast with greening of the entire public transport network.

Birmingham City Council (Cllr T Huxtable) – asked if the Airport Company were considering the provision of solar farms on or near to the airport site. The Airport Company (Tom Denton) advised that all options were being reviewed, going forwards, to help meet future voluntary and mandatory carbon emission targets.

Fordbridge Town Council (Cllr D Cole) – highlighted his own recent experiences of public transport and stated that significant improvements would need to be made and sustained to routes and timetables before residents would choose public transport over their cars.

Berkwell Parish Council (Cllr R Lloyd) – asked if there were any limitations to solar panels on the airfield and if the Airport Company currently utilised battery storage within any of its current operations. The Airport Company (Tom Denton) advised that there were safety considerations for the placement of solar panels (glint and glare etc) and battery storage provision would be a consideration going forwards as a future renewable energy solution. The Airport Company (Matt Wilshaw-Rhead) also summarised the safety considerations for the placement of such apparatus on the aerodrome.

Hampton in Arden Parish Council (Cllr D Sandells) – highlighted the arrival and departure profiles for aircraft and how they can contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions. The Airport Company (Tom Denton) recalled the work of the Operation Pathfinder Group which used to consider and evaluate such environmental metrics. It was intended that the Group would now be recommissioned as the effects of the pandemic continued to ease.

Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council (Cllr J Horton) – asked what future aircraft technology might look like to help reduce emissions. The Airport Company (Tom Denton) advised that development work was being undertaken by aircraft engine manufacturers to create the most efficient and lowest emitting jet engines. Additionally, other work was being undertaken around sustainable “green” aviation fuel and alternative fuels such as hydrogen.

Birmingham City Council (Cllr T Huxtable) – highlighted the future plans for East Birmingham/North Solihull Metro and asked what campaigning was being undertaken by the Airport Company to ensure that initiative was delivered. The Airport Company (Tom Denton) advised that colleagues from Transport and Planning would provide that answer retrospectively after the meeting.

RESOLVED

That, the contents of the update be received and noted.

13. PRESENTATION ITEM – NOISE ACTION PLAN

The Airport Company (Rosie Bishop) advised the Committee of the intentions for the next Noise Action Plan for the period 2024-2028, together with an indicative timetable for implementation (subject to the receipt of Strategic Noise Mapping from Defra). The Committee also received a PowerPoint presentation to support this agenda item.

As part of the same report, the Airport Company also highlighted the restarting of portable noise monitoring studies and the need for the placement of equipment to undertake that work. The Committee was invited to provide suggestions on potential locations for future studies. Kingshurst Parish Council (Cllr M Dawson) suggested a future site could be within the grounds of Mackadown Football Club and the Airport Company (Rosie Bishop) noted that suggestion.

Discussion Points

North Warwickshire Area Committee of Parish Councils (Cllr R Habgood) – asked who would be invited to the two proposed drop-in consultation sessions in April 2023 and was advised

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
1 DECEMBER 2022 AT 1.30 PM

that these would be established for ACC members where they would be able to feed in the views of their represented communities to the review process.

Solihull MBC (Cllr J Butler) – asked the Airport Company what was the longer-term plan to reduce the noise impact of aircraft beyond the Action Plan period. The Airport Company (Rosie Bishop) advised that the Action Plan included a number of measures to mitigate against noise wherever possible. In March 2023, the Committee would be presented with the first draft that would include a more detailed appraisal of the proposals within the Action Plan and the intended delivery of those actions.

Passengers Representative and Vice-Chairman (Mrs R Tyler) – highlighted that over the years there had been many reductions in noise and in the noise contours themselves so there was measureable improvements from each former Action Plan period. Step change improvements were now less likely, going forwards – more so smaller incremental improvements until there was a fundamental change in aircraft technology.

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr D Cuthbert) – asked whether daytime noise levels were reviewed too as part of the process and was advised that the Night Flying Policy covered night flying as a stand-alone policy. The daytime noise limit would be included within the review of the Noise Action Plan.

Hampton in Arden Parish Council (Cllr D Sandells) – welcomed the inclusion of ACC drop-in sessions within the timetable and asked if there would be any documentation that could be shared with communities. The Airport Company (Rosie Bishop) confirmed that the contents of the draft Noise Action Plan could be shared and further information would be issued in the new year.

Warwick District Council (Cllr G Illingworth) – asked who else, other than ACC would be consulted and was advised (Tom Denton) that ACC members were the key community stakeholders and that element of engagement would fulfil the requirements of the regulations.

RESOLVED

That, the contents of the update be received and noted.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee highlighted the recent news reports of lasers being pointed towards aircraft and asked the Airport Company if they could provide any further information of any specific incidents at Birmingham Airport. The Airport Company (Matt Wilshaw-Rhead) advised of the background to the incidents reported in the press and the likely consequences to any offenders.

RESOLVED

That, the agenda item noted.

15. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

The Airport Company highlighted the follow dates as the 2023 calendar of meetings. All meetings would take place within Diamond House and commence at 13.30hrs:

- Thursday 2 March 2023.
- Thursday 8 June 2023.
- Thursday 7 September 2023.
- Thursday 7 December 2023.

**BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
1 DECEMBER 2022 AT 1.30 PM**

RESOLVED

That, the calendar of meetings for 2023 be agreed and noted.

**BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
1 DECEMBER 2022 AT 1.30 PM**

Appendix A

Name	Area	Amount	Purpose
Rainbow Alliance Kingshurst	Kingshurst	£3,000.00	Catering Equipment
Old Silhillians Hockey Club	Knowle	£2,000.00	Sports Equipment and Storage
Greyhound Crown Green Bowling Club	Erdington	£3,000.00	Lawn Aerator & Sprayer
St Margaret's School Parents Assoc	Olton	£3,000.00	Building works to sports pavilion
Birmingham Disability Resource Centre	Kitts Green	£0	No Award
Birmingham Dogs Home	C de Barnes	£0	No Award
All Saints Church	Shard End	£ 500.00	Arts and Crafts Materials and Equipment
RajoRadio	Bordesley Green	£3,000.00	Radio Broadcasting Equipment
Bromford Bridge Christian Fellowship	Bromford	£2,790.43	Furniture & Catering Equipment
Marston Green Netball Club	Marston Green	£3,000.00 C	Resurfacing of Netball Court
Solihull Moors Foundation	Damson Wood	£2,890.00	Sports Equipment
Headway Birmingham & Solihull	Wylde Green	£3,000.00 C	Contribution towards cost of minibus
Saheli Hub	Washwood Heath	£3,000.00	Cycles and Associated Equipment
Kitts Green Church	Kitts Green	£3,000.00	Kitchen Equipment
Catherine de Barnes Village Hall	C de Barnes	£3,000.00 C	Resurfacing of Car Park
Bickenhill Church Hall	Bickenhill	£3,000.00	Replacement Windows and Door
	Total Awarded	£ 38,180.43	