

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director for Corporate Services

to

London Southend Airport Monitoring Working Party

on

26th June 2013

Report prepared by: John Williams,
Head of Legal & Democratic Services

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London Southend Airport Monitoring Report

Executive Councillors: Councillors Holdcroft, J Garston and Moring

A Part 1 Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

For the Working Party to review key monitoring data, details of complaints and the Annual Report of the London Southend Airport Company Limited (“the Airport Company”).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the monitoring data supplied by the Airport Company for the 6 month period November 2012 – April 2013 which demonstrates general compliance with the obligations contained in the relevant Planning Agreements and Leases.
- 2.2 To note the details supplied by the Airport Company of complaints received during the 6 month period November 2012 – April 2013 and how they have been resolved.
- 2.3 To note the Annual Report of the Airport Company.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council owns the freehold of London Southend Airport (“the Airport”) which has been leased to the Airport Company since 1994.
- 3.2 The Airport Company has recently carried out significant development at the Airport, including a runway extension, new terminal and a railway station.
- 3.3 To facilitate this Airport development, the Airport Company has obtained the necessary planning consents from Southend and Rochford Councils. In addition the leasing arrangements with Southend Council have been revised.

- 3.4 The planning consents for the Airport development and the associated Planning Agreements impose much more stringent controls than had existed previously on aircraft movements (particularly at night), as well as take off & landing procedures and noise restrictions. These new controls are also repeated in the revised leasing arrangements.

The controls are designed to achieve a balance between protecting residents from the environmental impacts of the Airport, while delivering the significant benefits to the local economy of a revitalised Airport with the associated jobs created.

The Airport Company has confirmed that the redevelopment of the Airport has seen over 500 more staff working at the Airport in summer 2012 than in summer 2011. Jobs have been created in a number of different areas and additional roles are summarised below:

Airport staff directly employed by London Southend Airport	175
Hotel and station (airport subsidiaries)	66
Airlines and aircraft catering	166
Retail and concessions	66
Control authorities	40
Other	<u>5</u>
Total	517

- 3.5 Attached at **Appendix 1** is a summary of the current position as it appears on the Council's website. Attached at **Appendix 2** is an "Operational Controls Summary Table" which identifies the key controls which now apply to the Airport operations, including the important new controls on night flights: This table is also on the Council's website.

- 3.6 Ensuring that the Airport Company complies with its obligations is clearly very important.

This key task is the responsibility of the Airport Consultative Committee ("the ACC") which receives detailed monitoring data and also details about complaints and how they are resolved.

- 3.7 In addition, on the 19th July 2012, the Council established this Working Party as an additional mechanism to check that the Airport Company is complying with its obligations.

The setting up of this Working Party was recommended by the Cabinet which considered a report on Airport monitoring arrangements at its meeting on 19th June 2012.

Attached at **Appendix 3** are the terms of reference of the Working Party.

- 3.8 The first meeting of the Working Party was held on 6th December 2012. The Working Party noted the satisfactory position in terms of the Airport Company complying with the obligations imposed on it during the period May-October 2012. The Working Party resolved to hold a further meeting after the Annual Report was published in May 2013. The minutes of the Working Party were duly noted at Cabinet on 8th January 2013 (minute 634 refers).
- 3.9 Attached to this report at **Appendix 4** is the monitoring data supplied by the Airport Company relating to the second six months after the commencement of the new operations at the Airport. The data covers the months of November 2012 – April 2013 and it has been verified as correct by the ACC at its meeting on 15th May 2013.

The Airport Company has also produced a commentary on the monitoring data, including an explanation of the integrity of the data – see **Appendix 5**.

In summary, this monitoring data demonstrates that the Airport Company has generally complied with all the obligations imposed upon it. Where aircraft have not operated in accordance with the prescribed controls, detailed investigation is carried out and a summary of aircraft which have not followed the noise preferential routes is set out in **Appendix 5**, including a summary of actions taken to prevent this being repeated.

The Managing Director of the Airport Company, Alastair Welch, will be attending the meeting to answer any queries Members may have.

- 3.10 The Corporate Director of Place has undertaken some separate checks on aircraft movements to verify compliance with the obligations imposed upon the Airport Company. This has not revealed any non-compliance.

The Working Party will also be reassured by the fact that the data used for monitoring by the Airport Company is taken from air traffic control logs maintained by controllers individually licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and that the data is also supplied to the CAA (see **Appendix 5**). In addition the data is submitted to the ACC for consideration.

- 3.11 In terms of complaints about the Airport operations during the 6 month period November 2012 – April 2013, this is a matter for the Airport Company to deal with. This is made clear on the Council's website (**Appendix 1**).

Attached at **Appendix 6** is a document produced by the Airport Company summarising complaints which they have received during the period November 2012 – April 2013 together with a commentary explaining how they have been resolved.

Monitoring of complaints and how they are resolved is scrutinised by the ACC. The information contained in **Appendix 6** has been considered by the ACC at its meeting on 15th May 2013.

Alastair Welch, will be able to answer any queries Members may have relating to this complaints information.

Where complaints are received by the Council they are generally passed to the Airport Company to respond to. Where the complaint relates to the Council, then these are responded to by the appropriate officer.

3.12 The Annual Report of the Airport Company is to be published on the 25th or 26th June 2013 and copies will be available at the meeting. The Annual Report deals not only with compliance with the various obligations in the relevant Planning Agreements and Leases, but also wider issues relating to the operation of the Airport. The Airport Company has confirmed that the Annual Report high lights the following points:

- Good progress on the Airport's surface access strategy with 29% of passengers already using public transport to access the airport.
- 92% of Airport staff live in Essex (79% within the 'SS' postcode area).
- Over 500 more staff work at the Airport now than in summer 2011.
- Targets which require over 50% of operations over Rochford and fewer than 50% of landings over Leigh have been met.
- Very similar 57db (Laeq16h) noise contour for 2012 as for 2008. This reflects the performance of the modern aircraft in use at the Airport.
- Air quality measured to be well below set limits.
- 99.9% of passenger flights correctly followed new noise preferential routes.
- The Airport has operated within the limits set for total movements, night movements, movements by 737-300 aircraft and by freight aircraft.

Alastair Welch will be able to answer any queries Members may have relating to this Annual Report.

4. Corporate Implications

4.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

Prosperous Council

4.2 Financial Implications

None

4.3 Legal Implications

Details of the principal controls imposed on the Airport Company are set out in the report.

4.4 People Implications

None

4.5 Property Implications

Relevant issues are set out in the report.

4.6 Consultation

None – although the planning approvals for the Airport development were subject to standard consultation processes.

4.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

No significant implications

4.8 Risk Assessment

Not applicable

4.9 Value for Money

Not applicable

4.10 Community Safety Implications

No issues

4.11 Environmental Impact

The purpose of the report is to address compliance with controls designed to minimise the environmental impact of the Airport.

5. Background Papers

The Planning Permissions and Planning Agreements relating to the Airport.

The Leases relating to the Airport.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 Airport Controls published on the Council's website

Appendix 2 Operational Controls Summary Table

Appendix 3 Airport Monitoring Working Party Terms of Reference

Appendix 4 Monitoring Data for the period November 2012 – April 2013

Appendix 5 Commentary on the Monitoring Data produced by the Airport Company, including an explanation of the integrity of the data.

Appendix 6 Details of Complaints supplied by the Airport Company for the period November 2012 – April 2013 with commentary.