

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

4

Report of Director of Legal & Democratic Services
to
London Southend Airport Monitoring Working Party
on
16 October 2018

Report prepared by: John Williams
Director of Legal & Democratic Services

London Southend Airport Monitoring Report

Cabinet member: Councillor Moring

Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

For the Working Party to review key monitoring data, details of complaints and London Southend Airport Annual Report 2017-18.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To note the monitoring data contained in London Southend Airport Annual Report 2017-18 for the 12 month period 1st March 2017 – 28th February 2018 and the Section 106 Agreement Year Summary 2017 / 2018 which demonstrates general compliance with the obligations contained in the relevant planning agreements and leases.

2.2 To note the details of complaints received in the 12 month period 1st March 2017 – 28th February 2018 as contained in the Annual Report.

2.3 To note the rest of the contents of the Annual Report and the very satisfactory and successful position reported.

3. Background

3.1 The Council owns the freehold of London Southend Airport (“the Airport”) which has been leased to London Southend Airport Company Limited (“the Airport Company”) since 1994. The Airport Company is owned by the Stobart Group.

3.2 The Airport Company has carried out significant development at the Airport, including a runway extension, new terminal, new control tower, new radar, hotel and a railway station. In the last year a 650 space car park extension has been built, taxiways improved, a new de-icing facility installed and security arrangements upgraded.

This major investment has attracted new airlines to the Airport, including EasyJet, Flybe, Jota Aviation, Stobart Air and Ryanair (from 2019). Passenger numbers in 2017/18 increased to 1.13m.

3.3 To facilitate this Airport development, the Airport Company obtained the necessary planning consents from Southend-on-Sea and Rochford Councils. In addition the leasing arrangements with Southend-on-Sea Borough Council were revised.

3.4 The planning consents for the Airport development and the associated Section 106 Planning Agreements impose much more stringent controls than had existed previously on aircraft traffic movements (ATM's) particularly at night, as well as take-off and 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 London Southend Airport Annual Report 2017-18 at **Appendix 1** ("the Annual Report") details the employment generated by the Airport and how the expansion has supported employment in local companies (see pages 26–31).

The Annual Report was formally approved by the Airport Consultative Committee ("ACC") on 11 June 2018.

3.5 Attached at **Appendix 2** is some general information about the Airport which appears on the Council's website.

Attached at **Appendix 3** is an "Operational Controls Summary Table" which identifies the key controls which now apply to the Airport operations, including the important 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 very important.

In this regard the Council receives regular data on ATM's from the Airport Company and the Section 106 Agreement Year Summary 2017/2018 is attached at **Appendix 4**.

The data supplied by the Airport Company is taken from air traffic control logs maintained by controllers individually licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority ("CAA"). The data is also supplied to the CAA and the ACC.

Checks carried out by officers in the Department of Place, including an annual audit/spot check of reporting data compiled by the Airport Company for the CAA and the Council, have not cast any doubt on the integrity of the data supplied.

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. Attached at **Appendix 5** are the terms of reference of the Working Party.

3.8 The Working Party meets approximately once per year and the last meeting was held on 24th October 2017. At this last meeting, the Working Party noted the satisfactory position in terms of the Airport Company complying with the obligations imposed on it during the period up to 28th February 2017. The minutes of the Working Party were duly noted at Cabinet on 7th November 2017 (minute 460 refers) and then at Council on 14th December 2017.

3.9 Aircraft Traffic Movements (ATM) Controls & Noise Preferential Routes

Pages 52-59 of the Annual Report contain key monitoring data relating to ATM Controls and compliance with Noise Preferential Routes for the period 1st March 2017 – 28th February 2018 together with commentary.

The data was verified as correct by the ACC as part of the sign off procedure referred to in 3.4.

The Section 106 Agreement Year Summary 2017 / 2018 at **Appendix 4** contains additional information.

In summary, there has been general compliance with the obligations contained in the relevant Section 106 Planning Agreements and leases with regard to ATM's:

- The total number of ATM's was 27,449 against an annual limit of 53,300.
- There were 492 Cargo ATM's against an annual permitted number of 2744.
- There were only 8 Boeing 737-300 ATM's against a limit of 2,150.
- While there can be up to 1,440 ATM's per annum during the night (subject to a number of strict limitations in terms of types of aircraft and noise levels), the actual figure was only 515 (after discounting 124 diverted, delayed or exempt ATM's).
- At night over the 12 month period, only 17% of aircraft took off towards or landed from the south-west and in every case this was in accordance with one of the six prescribed safety reasons in the Section 106 Planning Agreements.
- During the day time over the 12 month period, 22% of aircraft landed from the south-west (against a maximum permitted figure of 50%) and 45% of all arrivals and departures were from the south-west (against a maximum permitted figure of 50%). All such take-offs and landings were in accordance with one of the six prescribed safety reasons in the Section 106 Planning Agreements or were dictated by movement volumes.
- There has been full compliance with the day-time noise restrictions.

In terms of compliance with the Noise Preferential Routes which apply to departing aircraft over 5.7 tonnes, the very limited numbers of infringements are set out on page 58 of the Annual Report and fines issued are detailed on page 59.

3.10 Complaints

Complaints about the Airport operations during the 12 month period 1st March 2017 – 28th February 2018, is essentially a matter for the Airport Company to deal with as made clear on the Council's website (**Appendix 2**).

The Airport Company has a comprehensive complaints handling service which responds to comments and complaints about aircraft noise and routing. Complaints data, including information on complaints resolution, is considered regularly by the ACC.

Included on page 38 and 39 of the Annual Report is a summary of complaints received and investigated by the Airport Company between 1st March 2017 and 28th February 2018. The total number of noise complaints was 278 which is a reduction in the figure for 2016/17 of 335. The Annual Report also records on page 53 that the Airport has operated within all the agreed limitations on aircraft movements during the period March 2017- February 2018. The data was verified as correct by the ACC as part of the sign off procedure referred to in 3.4.

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.

3.11 The Council has recently produced a Briefing Note on operational controls to address a number of issues which have been raised by members of the public; including business jet operations and training flights undertaken by British Airways and Flybe. The Briefing Note is attached at **Appendix 6**.

3.12 Senior Officers of the Stobart Group will be attending the meeting to answer any queries Members may have relating to the Annual Report (including the monitoring and complaints information contained therein) and the Section 106 Year Summary 2017 / 2018.

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 main controls imposed on the Airport Company are set out in the report and the Appendices.

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

The monitoring process referred to in this report is designed to ensure that the requirements of the leases and S.106 Agreements are complied with.

4.9 Value for Money

Not applicable

4.10 Community Safety Implications

The Airport must operate in accordance with CAA requirements.

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 S.106 Planning Agreements relating to the Airport.

The leases relating to the Airport.

6. Appendices

- Appendix 1** London Southend Airport Annual Report 2017-18.
- Appendix 2** General Information about the Airport published on the Council's website
- Appendix 3** Operational Controls Summary Table published on the Council's website
- Appendix 4** Section 106 Year End Summary 2017 / 2018
- Appendix 5** London Southend Airport Monitoring Working Party - Terms of Reference
- Appendix 6** Briefing Note on operational controls