

AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES' TOP ISSUES DISCUSSED 2022-23

Introduction

1. Many of the UK's airports have experienced a return to near pre-pandemic traffic levels over the past year, with some exceeding 2019 traffic levels. As reported to last year's Annual Meeting, recovery and resilience has been a key focus for the DfT and the CAA. The Government's framework for aviation over the next ten years "[Flightpath to the Future](#)" focuses on providing clarity on the key priorities for the sector and how the Government and industry will work together to deliver a ten-point plan. The [Aviation Council](#), jointly chaired by Baroness Vere of Norbiton, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Stewart Wingate, Chief Executive Officer, Gatwick Airport Limited, brings together industry and government to support the delivery and implementation of commitments set out in the Flightpath to the Future. The minutes of the Aviation Council's meetings, once published, are shared with UKACCs members.
2. Recovery from the impact of the pandemic and associated travel restrictions was not only important for the aviation sector but also for local and regional economies, supply chains and labour markets, public transport services providers given the reduced demand for services and on the local environment for communities around airports. The passenger experience has also been impacted with the pandemic bringing into sharp focus financial protections where plans have more frequently had to change at short notice, and poor service standards where staff shortages impacted on performance and service quality.
3. All these issues have been key topics of discussion for many of our ACCs.
4. It is important for UKACCs to develop a UK-wide understanding of the common issues and to discuss possible ways to address those issues. Prior to the Annual Meeting, member ACCs were asked to share the top three issues experienced at and around their airports over the past year. Many of the issues that have been shared by ACCs are common to other UKACCs members. The common issues include:
 - airport expansion and planning processes
 - sustainability/environmental issues, particularly noise disturbance, noise management including noise action planning, noise complaints handling, air quality, carbon emissions and net zero targets
 - surface access and public transport service issues
 - passenger experiences at the border, security processing, ground handling, especially arrivals baggage performance and accessibility services
 - airspace modernisation/airspace change potential impacts and processes.
5. The DfT will give an update at the Annual Meeting on its work and policy development which cover many of the issues. ACCs will have opportunity to discuss their concerns with representatives of the DfT with the aim of identifying those matters which would benefit from being raised at national fora, with the DfT, CAA and/or other parties following the Annual Meeting.