The UK Government requires that Noise Action Plans are developed for all sources of environmental noise, including airports, major roads, railways and industry. Noise Action Plans for airports support the Government’s objective, as set out in the White Paper ‘The Future of Air Transport’, December 2003, to limit and, where possible, reduce the number of people in the UK significantly affected by aircraft noise.

The London City Airport (LCA) Noise Action Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations (England) 2006 (SI 2006/2238) (as amended) which transposed the EU Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) known as END, into UK legislation, and supplemented by the Guidance produced by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). This summary document outlines the key actions included in the full Noise Action Plan, which covers the five year period 2010 – 2015 and can be found at www.londoncityairport.com.

As specified by the Noise Regulations and DEFRA, London City Airport’s Noise Action Plan focuses on areas affected by noise from airport operations, as identified by Strategic Noise Maps which are contained in the appendices of the document. The Plan considers the acceptability of current noise management measures in place at the Airport taking into account current legislation, guidance and local planning conditions. It also outlines the current noise management activities and an Action Plan for enhanced noise monitoring and management in the future.

London City Airport is located in East London and provides air transport services to over 30 destinations in the UK, Europe and USA. During 2011, a total of 68,100 aircraft movements operated at LCA. Due to its city-centre location and close proximity to residential, business, and commercial properties, the noise management measures in force at LCA are among the most stringent in the UK. To manage noise complaints, keep abreast of community concerns and provide feedback to local residents, LCA has an Environmental Complaint Management System by which anyone can contact the Airport to register a complaint or request information about airport operations. Communication can be either by telephone, post, email or via the LCA website. LCA currently receives less than two complaints or enquiries per 1,000 aircraft movements.

In 2009 as a result of achieving planning approval to operate 120,000 flight movements per year, LCA committed to a new legal agreement (Section 106) which includes an enhanced noise management scheme. The commitments in the Section 106 Agreement to monitor and mitigate the impact of aircraft noise on our neighbours are included in the Noise Action Plan. The Plan was subject to a 16 week public consultation and comments from stakeholders included where relevant, with responses to questions raised by the public included in the appendices.

LCA Noise Actions

The current key noise management measures at LCA include:

- No flights landing or taking off before 0630 hours or after 2230 hours and a 24 hour closure period at weekends
- Restricted use of aircraft types, with all aircraft required to demonstrate their ability to operate within strict noise categories
- Restrictions on the numbers of aircraft operations, both daily and annually, in addition to the early morning period of 0630-0659 hours
- Operation of a Noise and Track Keeping monitoring system
- A Penalties and Incentives Scheme for airlines to discourage excessively noisy departures
- A Sound Insulation Scheme providing acoustic treatment to eligible properties
- A steep approach glide slope of 5.5 degrees for all aircraft types
- Regular dialogue with local communities facilitated by the Airport Consultative Committee

Future Noise Actions

Additional noise management measures to be introduced within the next five years include:

- An updated Noise Monitoring and Mitigation Strategy to provide a more comprehensive and robust system of noise monitoring including the measurement of ground based sources of noise as well as airborne noise
- An updated scheme to encourage airline operators to use quiet operating procedures when conducting operations and observe air and ground noise abatement procedures
- A review of the existing aircraft noise categories with the aim of providing further encouragement to limit and, if possible, reduce noise levels
- Studies into ground noise and the effectiveness of sound screens to inform and enhance noise attenuation for local communities
- An expansion to the existing Sound Insulation Scheme to offer enhanced acoustic treatment to eligible properties within the 66 dB L_{eq,16h} noise contour
- Purchase offers to be made to any properties that fall within the 69 dB L_{eq,16h} noise contour
- A noise insulation payments scheme which offers financial assistance to fund any additional costs of acoustic treatment of new (un-built) developments granted planning permission before the Airport’s 2009 planning approval.
LCA has undergone a lengthy and in-depth planning application process which included a detailed assessment of the environmental noise impact of the Airport, both for current and future operations. The planning approval granted in 2009 is a testament to the acceptability of the Airport’s existing and future noise control measures as presented in this Noise Action Plan.

An assessment of LCA’s noise impact and the proposed noise management measures has been carried out by independent consultants based on:

- Relevant guidance and legislation.
- The noise impact of operations at LCA shown by the results of the END Strategic Noise Maps.
- The noise measures already in place at the Airport.

The assessment has found that the environmental noise impact of existing operations at LCA, based on both the 2006 noise contours and the approved increase in aircraft movements to 120,000, subject to the implementation of the actions above and outlined in Section 2.0 of the full Noise Action Plan, are acceptable.

LCA will report annually to the Local Authority (London Borough of Newham) on the progress of implementation of the above enhanced noise management measures in its Annual Performance Report. This report will be available in July of each year online at www.londoncityairport.com. Quarterly updates on noise matters will continue to be reported to the London City Airport Consultative Committee (www.lcacc.org).

For further information on this Noise Action Plan or other matters related to the operation of London City Airport, please contact our Environment Team on 020 7646 0200.

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