

## EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP HELD AT EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON TUESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2009

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| <b>PRESENT:</b>   | Roy Stuart (Chairman)<br>Councillor Nick Pring (Vice Chairman )  | East Devon Business Forum<br>Clyst Honiton Parish Council  |
|                   | Jamie Christon<br>Councillor Sara Randall Johnson<br>Councillor Bernard Limb<br>Councillor Jack Smith<br>Rufus Heald<br>Councillor Don Axford<br>Councillor Barry Nicholson<br>Councillor Moira Trigger<br>Councillor Ian Holmes<br>John Payne<br>Chris Lane<br>Councillor Noel Finnegan | EDAL<br>Flybe<br>Woodbury Parish Council<br>Farringdon Parish Council<br>Exeter Flying Club<br>Bishops Clyst Parish Council#<br>East Devon District Council<br>Rockbeare Parish Council<br>Ottery St Mary Town Council<br>EDAL<br>Democratic Services Officer<br>Aylesbeare Parish Council |
| <b>APOLOGIES:</b> | Councillor Stella Brock  | Exeter City Council  |

The meeting started at 2.15 pm and ended at 3.20 pm.

#### \*25 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22 October 2008 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

#### \*26 **Matters Arising**

Consultation documents on the guidance for Airport operators to produce action plans under the terms of Environmental Noise Regulation 2006 (min no \*21 refers)

Members noted that no further progress had been made on preparation of an action plan.

Report of Managing Director (min no \*22 refers)

Members noted that no progress had been made as yet on the Class D air space classification. Jamie Christon reported that this was a lengthy and expensive process.

The Consultative Group congratulated to Jamie Christon on being appointed Managing Director.

#### \*28 **Report of the Managing Director**

Consideration was given to the verbal report of Jamie Christon, Managing Director, EDAL.

The Consultative Group noted that the performance of the Airport had suffered due to the unfavourable economic conditions and had mirrored the performance of the aircraft industry and the country as a whole. Passenger numbers at the Airport had reduced by 20% in November and December, with the Civil Aviation Authority also reporting an overall 10% reduction in British Airports in November and 13% in December. The reduction in passengers at Exeter Airport was due largely to the cancellation of a number of scheduled Flybe services. Bookings were also down for charter services and meetings were to be held with the charter operators on this issue.

\*28 **Report of the Managing Director** (Cont)

Jamie Christon reported that the emphasis of the management of Exeter Airport was on efficiency and restructuring. They would continue to take steps to reduce business costs, to help retain profitability, with the emphasis on passenger safety and security. They were hoping to be able to retain all their staff in 2009, but there was the possibility of redundancies if market conditions did not improve. The management team had been restructured and it was reported with regret that John Payne, Operations Director, would be retiring from the business in October 2009. The recruitment process for a replacement would start shortly.

However, the Airport management were continuing to look to improve the Airport and improvements were planned to the departure lounge including a WH Smith outlet in the airside area, a World Duty Free fit out and changes to the catering offer, which would include a hot food facility in the landside area. Seven bidders had been expressed an interest in the new car park contract, which would be let by 1 April 2009.

There would be a number of military flights in February/March, with the Airport hosting seven inbound flights from Afghanistan and one outbound flight. These were expected to receive media attention and visits from military VIP's.

Jamie Christon reported that further detailed responses had been received to the Master Plan, since the final date for receipt of responses on 30 September. Just under 200 responses had been received in total and the Airport had made a start in replying to these. Members noted that the delays in building Cranbrook were adversely affecting the service access strategy part of the Master Plan. The economic recession had also affected projected passenger figures in the Master Plan. It was hoped however, to publish the Plan in Spring 2009.

Councillor Sara Randall Johnson from Flybe, reported that she hoped that the relief road for Clyst Honiton could be built to open up access for Sky Park and the Science Park. To allow them to be built. This would help create more jobs in the East Devon area, which was an important priority in the current economic conditions. The building of infrastructure was an important first step in starting the development of Cranbrook and the possibility of this being funded by the Government funds was suggested. This which would help the developers to start building in the current adverse economic conditions.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted;

\*29 **Complaints Handling**

John Payne, Operations Director, reported that there had been a total of 7 specific noise complaints since the last meeting. Three were from Exeter, two of which were to do with Royal Mail night flights and the last a photographic aircraft from Dunkeswell, which was outside the airports control zone. A resident of Sidbury had also complained about the Royal Mail night flights. Another complaint was from Marsh Green regarding a jet taking off and landing on Zero 8. A letter had been received from Buckfastleigh regarding a military jet. Lastly, a complaint had been received from West Hill. All complaints had been responded to within the allocated procedure period.

John Payne reported that the Operations Department were producing a leaflet to explain the Airports noise policy and complaints procedure. It would also illustrate flightpaths and contain other useful information for residents. It would be sent to all residents who complained about noise. Members of the Consultative Group welcomed the production of this document and asked that it be sent to all Parish Clerks and be available in local post offices.

\*29 **Complaints Handling**

**RESOLVED**

1. that the report be noted.;
2. that the leaflet explaining the Airport's noise policy and complaints procedure, which was to be sent to all noise complainants, be also sent by the Airports operational department to all Parish Clerks and made available in local post offices.

\*30 **Any other business**

Training flights

The Bishops Clyst Parish Council representative asked whether there would be an increase in training flights when the new Flybe Training Academy was opened. Jamie Christon reported that there would not be a significant increase in training flights from the Airport as much of the training would take place in classrooms and on simulators. The Consultative Group welcomed the decision to build the Flybe Training Academy at the Airport.

Rubbish on road

The Ottery St Mary Town Council representative commented on the amount of rubbish on the access road to the Airport. Members noted that it was difficult to collect the rubbish because of the busy nature of the road.

Planning application for Training Academy and Hotel

The Aylesbeare Parish Council representative reported on his concerns over the lack of communication from the District Council on the planning applications for the Training Academy and Hotel. The Farringdon Parish Council representative also confirmed that his Parish had expressed concerns over the lack of consultation on this issue.

\*31 **Date of the next meeting**

**RESOLVED**

that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Group be held on Wednesday, 22 April 2009, commencing at 2.15 pm.

Chairman ..... Date .....