

EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP HELD AT EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Nick Pring (Vice Chairman in Clyst Honiton Parish Council the chair)

Jamie Christon	EDAL
Councillor Sara Randall Johnson	Flybe
Councillor Bernard Limb	Woodbury Parish Council
Councillor Jack Smith	Farringdon Parish Council
Rufus Heald	Exeter Flying Club
Councillor Barry Nicholson	East Devon District Council
Councillor Moira Trigger	Rockbeare Parish Council
John Payne	EDAL
Chris Lane	Democratic Services Officer
Councillor Noel Finnegan	Aylesbeare Parish Council
Councillor Stella Brock	Exeter City Council

APOLOGIES: Councillor Ian Holmes Ottery St Mary Town Council
Roy Stuart (Chairman) East Devon Business Forum

The meeting started at 2.15 pm and ended at 3.10 pm.

*32 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20 January 2009 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

*33 **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 continued to suffer due to the unfavourable economic conditions which had mirrored the performance of the aircraft industry and the country as a whole. Passenger numbers at the Airport had reduced by 20% in January, 29% in February, and 26% in March. April had so far only shown a reduction of 13%, but this was in part due to Easter being in April this year and also the exceptional movements of 2,500 troops from Afghanistan, for which the Airport had received thanks from the military for the efficient way in which they had dealt with these flights. A reforecast of passenger numbers had been completed for 2009. Overall passenger numbers were expected to decrease by 10% against budget, largely due to a continued downturn in domestic and scheduled international volumes operated by Flybe including the removal of the second E-195 aircraft which had not been forecast.

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. Overheads had been brought back into line with income and profits holding up. A few jobs had been lost from airport services staff and one management redundancy had been made. The recruitment process for a replacement for John Payne, Operations Director had been completed and it was anticipated that his replacement would be able to attend the next meeting of the Consultative Group on 1 July to meet members.

The Airport management were continuing to look to improve the Airport and the improvements to airside retailing had been completed which had included a WH Smith outlet in the airside area, a World Duty Free fit out and changes to the catering offer.

***33 Report of the Managing Director (Cont)**

The car parking contract had been put out to tender and would be transferred from NCP to APCOA during the following week. This would result in a move to automatic number plate recognition and also a reorganisation of the car parks to improve security and safety. There would also be a launch around the Airport of the Zero Harm safety programme, which was a Balfour Beatty designed programme to change best safety practice to better safety practice. Members noted that Which? Magazine had placed Exeter International Airport fourth in an online survey of all UK airports.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

***34 Responses to the Master Plan**

Jamie Christon, Managing Director, gave members an update on responses received from the Master Plan. He reported that a total of 166 responses had been received, consisting 20 detailed responses from primary stakeholders, 32 letters from individuals, 41 feedback forms and 73 internet electronic responses. In all approximate 550 individual points had been made in 12 subject areas. There had been a 41% response rate from the individual organisations, including Devon County Council, East Devon District Council, Exeter City Council, Government Office of the South West and Airport Concern Exeter.

There were 10 subject areas commented upon, the main concerns were regarding noise, night flights, road access and public transport. 26% of principal respondents were concerned with noise and 26% concerned with night flights. These concerns were reflected in the letters received from individuals. 65% of those who responded by questionnaires said they would use the Airport as their first choice.

The contents of the Master Plan itself would be affected by the adverse economic conditions and consequent reduction in passenger volumes. As a result Jamie Christon reported that it may be necessary to delay the introduction of carbon neutrality for the Airport by up to 2 years as building work may be delayed. It was anticipated that the completed Master Plan would be going to the EDAL Board in June to be finalised and published in July 2009.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

***35 Complaints Handling**

John Payne, Operations Director, reported that there had been a total of 2 specific noise complaints since the last meeting. One was a photographic plane flying low and the other was a complaint from Marsh Green regarding an evening Royal Mail flight. Members noted that during the past year May – April, 19 complaints had been received by the Airport with regard to noise, 15 of which were directly attributable to the Airport. This was to be compared with 32,800 aircraft movements, representing only 0.04% of traffic. The Consultative Group congratulated the Airport on this remarkably low level of complaints. All complaints had been responded to within the allocated procedure period.

John Payne circulated a leaflet to members produced by the Operations Department explaining the Airport's noise policy and complaints procedure. It would illustrate flightpaths and contain other useful information for residents and would be sent to all residents who complained about noise. Members of the Consultative Group welcomed the production of this document and noted that it would be available on the Airport's website

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

*36 **Any other business**

Ground engine running

Councillor Jack Smith, the Farringdon Parish Council representative, reported on concerns he had received from local residents about ground engine testing at 2.10am one morning. The Flybe representative reported that this was due to the plane being needed for services the following day, but that she would investigate this occurrence further.

*37 **Date of the next meeting**

RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Group be held on Wednesday, 1 July 2009, commencing at 2.15 pm.

Chairman Date