

## EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP HELD AT EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY, 11 JANUARY 2012

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor Jack Smith (Vice Chairman in the Chair)	Farringdon Parish Council
	Stephen Ayres	EDAL
	Stephen Wiltshire	EDAL
	Chris Lane	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Noel Finnigan	Aylesbeare Parish Council
	Councillor Ian Holmes	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Councillor David Mason	Rockbeare Parish Council
	Councillor Richard Bartlett	Woodbury Parish Council
	Councillor Don Axford	Bishops Clyst Parish Council
	Councillor Jo Talbot	Ottery St Mary Town Council
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Matt Roach	EDAL
	Councillor Dave Millar	Rockbeare Parish Council
	Councillor Nick Pring (Chairman)	Clyst Honiton Parish Council
	Gary Holley	Flybe
	Rufus Heald	Exeter Airport User
	Councillor Phil Twiss	East Devon District Council

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

**\*17 Welcome**

The Vice Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting.

**\*18 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19 October 2011, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

**\*19 Matters Airing**

Report of Managing Director (Minute \*14 of 19 October 2011 refers)

The Consultative Group expressed their concern about the potential impact on the Airport of Flybe's falling share price; it was noted that Flybe's underlying profits continued to be at a low level. Stephen Wiltshire Operations Director, EDAL, confirmed that 2012 would be a tough market for aviation and the travel industry. The current economic situation posed a significant risk to the airline industry as a whole. Members noted that the Flybe Training Academy generated a lot of business from other airlines, training pilots and air crew. The maintenance side of the business also generated business maintaining and repairing aircraft from other companies.

**\*20 Addendum to the Master Plan**

Councillor Jack Smith, reported that full consideration of the Addendum to the Master Plan should be delayed until the April meeting of the Consultative Group

\*20 **Addendum to the Master Plan** (Cont)

When it was hoped members absent at the current meeting would be present.

**RESOLVED** that further consideration of the addendum to the Master Plan be delayed until the April meeting of the Consultative Group.

\*21 **Impact of Helicopter on Residential Properties**

(Minute \*14 of 19 October 2011 refers)

The Consultative Group discussed the possible impact on residential properties of Helicopter noise from the Police and Air Ambulance helicopters being based on the Airport, after concerns had been raised at the last meeting. Stephen Wiltshire, Operation Director EDAL confirmed that both services wanted to be based on the Airport before the end of 2012. It was the intention to make both helicopters use the main runway where practicable and treat them as any other aircraft (except in an emergency). The Police Helicopter operated 24 hours a day but the Air Ambulance only operated during daylight hours. Members noted that on average the helicopters were used between 5 – 6 times a day.

The Consultative Group noted that the Airport would do all it could to minimise the noise impact. There were particular concerns from Rockbeare Parish Council, who were just to the north of the proposed helicopter pad. The site did need planning permission and it was understood that the Police would submit a planning application within the next few weeks.

\*22 **Report of the Managing Director**

Consideration was given to the verbal report of Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director, EDAL.

The Consultative Group noted that overall performance continued to be disappointing against the budget and last year. Passenger traffic had declined during the period. Traffic numbers in October were 7% below last year and in November 8% down on last year and all below budget. Scheduled domestic passenger traffic had increased in October and November which was an encouraging sign. Charter passenger figures were boosted by a "Northern Lights" flight operated by Omega Holidays during November. Due to the success of this flight an additional flight has been arranged for March 2012.

There continued to be an ongoing engagement with local stakeholders regarding land allocation in the Local Plan. It was noted that the Airport management would be holding meetings with charter flight operators to establish what was looking to be a very challenging charter holiday programme in 2012. The Fire Service intended to start work on its training area on the Airport in January with a 52 week build programme.

Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director, EDAL reported that Loganair intended to restart the Exeter to Norwich daily service with a 28 seat aircraft at the end of March. There had also been a delivery of a new Thomson 737-800 aircraft to replace the First

**\*22 Report of the Managing Director (Cont)**

Choice A320. This aircraft would be based at Exeter and increased the seating capacity from 180 to 189.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**\*23 Complaints Handling**

Stephen Ayres, Communications Manager EDAL, reported that there had been two complaints and one comment received since the last meeting. The first was from a resident of Exeter concerning a 6.30am flight occurring on a regular basis waking the resident up. The second also concerned an Exeter resident who could not hold a conversation in their house on a Sunday afternoon due to ground engine running by Flybe. Flybe had been asked to reduce their ground engine running on a Sunday. The last was a comment from a worker from Sowton, who was concerned about the Police helicopter flying directly onto the Airports airspace and the potential dangers this may produce. He was informed that the Airport Air Traffic Control were responsible for all the immediate airspace around it. Responses had been made to all complaints.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**\*24 Any other business**

Next Meeting – Sustainability

Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director, EDAL reported that he would be adding an item on 'Sustainability' to the agenda for the April meeting of the Consultative Group.

**\*25 Date of the next meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Group be held on Wednesday, 4 April 2012, commencing at 2.15 pm.

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