

EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP HELD AT FLYBE TRAINING ACADEMY ON WEDNESDAY, 20 JUNE 2012

PRESENT:	Councillor Nick Pring (Chairman)	Clyst Honiton Parish Council
	Matt Roach	EDAL
	Councillor John Ayres	Aylesbeare Parish Council
	Gary Holley	Flybe
	Rufus Heald	Exeter Flying Club
	Councillor Phil Twiss	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Richard Bartlett	Woodbury Parish Council
	Chris Lane	East Devon District Council
	Stephen Wiltshire	EDAL
	Richard Bristow	Aviation South West
	Councillor Jo Talbot	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Councillor Ian Holmes	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Councillor Don Axford	Bishops Clyst Parish Council
APOLOGIES	Councillor Rosie Denham	Exeter City Council
	Richard Cohen	EDDC
	Roy Stuart	East Devon Business Forum
	Councillor Noel Finnigan	Aylesbeare Parish Council
	Councillor Jack Smith	Farringdon Parish Council

The meeting started at 2.15 pm and ended at 3.25 pm.

*1 **Election of Chairman**

RESOLVED that Councillor Nick Pring be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

*2 **Appointment of Vice Chairman**

The Chairman announced with regret the resignation of the Vice Chairman, Councillor Jack Smith from Farringdon Parish Council.

RESOLVED that Councillor Dave Miller be appointed Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

*3 **Appointment of Secretary**

RESOLVED that East Devon District Council be invited to continue to provide the secretary to service the Consultative Group meetings for the year.

*4 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 April 2012 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

*5 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

- *6 **Addendum to the Masterplan Exeter International Airport**
(minutes *13 of 19 October 2011, *20 of 11 January 2012 and *29 of 4 April 2012 refer)

Members noted that the Local Plan would be considered by the EDDC Development Management Committee on 24 July, so it was considered appropriate that the Addendum to the Master Plan be considered at the 5 September 2012 meeting of the Consultative Group.

- *7 **Report of the Managing Director**

Consideration was given to the verbal report of Matt Roach, Managing Director, EDAL.

The Consultative Group noted that passenger traffic for March was 4% above that for 2011, but still 3% down on budget. April also showed a 4% increase in passenger numbers over 2011 and also a 3% increase on budget. This growth was due to an increase in domestic traffic through the new Loganair route to Norwich and also partially as a result of the closure of Plymouth Airport. May had been very challenging with a 1% reduction in passenger numbers on 2011 and an 11% reduction on the budget expectation.

Overall the situation for airports continued to be challenging with both Cardiff and Newquay showing a significant reduction in passenger numbers on previous years; Bristol Airport was also not showing any increase in passenger numbers.

The problems the other airports were experiencing illustrated how well run Exeter International Airport was and the Consultative Group members wished to congratulate Matt Roach and Stephen Wiltshire on how well Exeter Airport was managed and its performance, particularly compared with the other Airports in the area.

Matt Roach Managing Director, EDAL reported that the cycle path through Car Park 3 had now been opened as was well used. There had been positive feedback from passengers about the newly refurbished catering facilities. Construction of the Flybe Hotel was progressing well and it was anticipated that it would be open on 18 January 2013.

The Devon & Cornwall Police Authority had now received planning permission for their relocation to the Airport. In addition, the construction of the Devon & Somerset Fire Service training ground was proceeding well. Flybe had recently introduced a new Manchester hub for 3 flights a day.

In response to a question from Cllr Phil Twiss about the possibility of new routes in 2013, particularly to Vancouver or Calgary for 2013, Matt Roach advised that the Airport would welcome the suggestion of any new routes. But the focus at present was on retaining the summer Toronto flight.

RESOLVED that the report be noted;

***8 Complaints Handling**

Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director reported that there had been four complaints and one question received since the last meeting. The first complaint was from a resident of Exeter who had complained about unusual/unacceptable noise from an aircraft at 1.50am and 2.00am. The second was from a resident in the Torquay area complaining about a noisy aircraft at 11.15pm and also 5.30am. The third complaint was from an Exeter St Thomas resident who complained about a plane landing at 2.00am. The last complaint was also from an Exeter resident concerning a noisy plane at 11.00pm and also being woken up at 5.30am, by an extremely loud aeroplane. It was understood that the majority of the complaints concerned Royal Mail aircraft. A letter had been written to all complainants.

Members noted that the question to the Airport concerned an increase in noise from planes passing over head recently. Also whether flight plans/routes had been changed slightly, allowing planes to approach at a lower altitude or whether there had been a change in the type of plane landing at Exeter Airport.

RESOLVED that the report be noted;

***9 Any other business**

Update to Master Plan

Councillor Richard Bartlett, Woodbury Parish Council asked whether there were any plans to update the passenger predictions in the Master Plan as they did not accurately reflect the current market conditions. Matt Roach reported that there were no current plans to do so unless there were radical changes to Airport regulation. However, in the longer term the figures would have to be reviewed. There was considerable uncertainty at present within the airline industry.

Exeter Airport Transport Forum

Councillor John Ayres from Aylesbeare Parish Council asked whether the Exeter Airport Transport Forum was still in existence as it had not met for 18 months. Matt Roach, Managing Director, EDAL replied that it was still in existence but had not met as there had been nothing significant to update the Forum with.

***10 Date of the next meeting**

RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Group be held on Wednesday, 5 September 2012, commencing at 2.15 pm.

Chairman Date