

EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

HELD AT EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2012

PRESENT:	Councillor Nick Pring (Chairman)	Clyst Honiton Parish Council
	Councillor Dave Millar (Vice Chairman)	Rockbeare Parish Council
	Matt Roach	EDAL
	Stephen Wiltshire	EDAL
	Chris Lane	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Noel Finnigan	Aylesbeare Parish Council
	Councillor Richard Bartlett	Woodbury Parish Council
	Councillor Jo Talbot	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Rufus Heald	Exeter Airport User
	Councillor Phil Twiss	East Devon District Council
	Sara Randall Johnson	Flybe
	Councillor Don Axford	Bishops Clyst Parish Council
	Councillor Derek Button	Broadclyst Parish Council
APOLOGIES:	Roy Stuart	East Devon Business Forum
	Councillor Ian Holmes	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Richard Cohen	EDDC
	Gary Holley	Flybe

The meeting started at 2.15 pm and ended at 3.05 pm.

***11 Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting.

***12 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20 June 2012, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

***13 Addendum to the Master Plan**

(Minute *20 of 11 January, *29 of 4 April and *6 of 20 June 2012 refers)

Members noted that the latest version of the EDDC Local Plan was not now due to be released until the New Year. The consultation period was still ongoing and members accepted that this item should be deferred until the end of consultation period for the Local Plan.

***14 Report of the Managing Director**

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

The Consultative Group noted that overall performance continued to be disappointing against the budget. Passenger traffic was down 3% in June and 5% in July against previous year. Scheduled domestic passenger traffic had continued to show an

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

increase but charter traffic was down for both months. Charter flights for both Thomas Cook and

Thomson had reduced in number this year as previously reported, but flights that had taken place were popular with load factors over 90%. However, it was anticipated that there would be additional new weekly flights to Tunisia for Thomson in May to October 2013 and a weekly flight to the Dalamans in Turkey.

Matt Roach reported that there had been media interest around the Flybe 5 millionth passenger through the Airport and the 10 year anniversary since Flybe's rebranding. The Fire Service turf cutting ceremony had taken place on 3 August and work was about to start on the relocation of the Police Helicopter station to the Airport. The Airport had also received successful BSI 14001 and 9001 visits and continued to have the appropriate accreditation. The Consultative Group congratulated the Airport Management team on achieving this.

In response to a question regarding the withdrawn Inverness link, Matt Roach replied that the link was still available through flights to Flybe's Manchester hub. Richard Bartlett reported that although the Airport continued to show lower than hoped for passenger figures, other Airports had shown much greater reductions in passenger numbers in what continued to be a difficult economic situation for both the Airline industry and the country as a whole.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

*16 **Complaints Handling**

Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director, EDAL, reported that there had been four complaints received since the last meeting. The first complainant, from the Alphington area of Exeter, had complained on three separate occasions regarding being woken up by an early morning aircraft. The second was also from an Alphington resident regarding being woken up at 2.00am by a Royal Mail plane. The third complaint was from a resident of Buckfastleigh regarding being woken up every 15 minutes by an aircraft. Stephen Wiltshire reported that there had been no air traffic under 20,000 feet at that time and the complainant had been referred to the CAA. The final complaint was from a resident of Clyst Honiton who had complained about scheduled flights at 5.30am in the morning and 11.30pm the previous night waking them up. All complainants had been written to and an explanation given.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

*17 **Any other business**

Airport Rebranding

In response to a question regarding possible rebranding of the Airport as "London Exeter" to increase business from the South East airports. Matt Roach, Managing Director, EDAL confirmed that Airport Management was ensuring that the Government was made well aware of the capacity for Regional Airports to take more traffic. The Manchester hub concept showed that there were opportunities for

*17 **Any other business** (Cont)

connections to many other destinations and passengers did not necessarily have to travel to Heathrow or Gatwick to get to many destinations. This opened up alternative routes from Exeter Airport.

Airport interest in Skypark/Science Park

In response to a question, Matt Roach confirmed that neither the Airport or Balfour Beatty had a financial interest in land at Skypark or the Science Park.

*18 **Date of the next meeting**

RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Group be held on Wednesday, 21 November 2012, commencing at 2.15 pm.

Chairman Date