

EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP HELD AT EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY, 10 APRIL 2013

PRESENT:	Councillor Nick Pring (Chairman)	Clyst Honiton Parish Council
	Councillor Dave Miller (Vice Chairman)	Rockbeare Parish Council
	Matt Roach	EDAL
	Stephen Wiltshire	EDAL
	Chris Lane	East Devon District Council
	Councillor John Ayres	Aylesbeare Parish Council
	Councillor Jo Talbot	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Rufus Heald	Exeter Airport User
	Councillor Don Axford	Bishops Clyst Parish Council
	Richard Bartlett	Woodbury Parish Council
	Councillor Ian Holmes	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Gary Holley	Flybe
	Councillor Derek Button	Broadclyst Parish Council
	Councillor Yolanda Henson	Exeter City Council
	Andrew Wood	East of Exeter Projects Director
APOLOGIES:	Richard Cohen	EDDC
	Sara Randall Johnson	Flybe
	Richard Bristow	Aviation South West
	Councillor Phil Twiss	East Devon District Council
	Roy Stuart	East Devon Business Forum
	Angela Fletcher	Farringdon Parish Council

The meeting started at 3.15 pm and ended at 4.15 pm.

***26 Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting.

***27 Change of Time of Future Meeting**

Members discussed changing the time of future meetings to 3.15pm.

RESOLVED that future meetings of the Consultative Group start at 3.15pm.

***28 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9 January 2013, were confirmed and signed as a true record, subject to changing a reference to "Department for Transport" to "Civil Aviation Authority" in minute *24 paragraph 2.

***29 Report of the Managing Director**

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

The Consultative Group noted that overall performance continued to be disappointing against the budget. Passenger traffic was up 4% in December, but 1% down on budget. January passenger traffic was 2% down and 11% down on budget. February passenger traffic was 3% down and 7% against budget. March had shown a 2% reduction in passenger traffic compared with last year. Matt Roach reported that so far in the April passenger figures had increased, due to a number of additional flights.

There was evidence of passenger numbers stabilising and the Group noted the reduction in passenger numbers at Airports such as Newquay and Cardiff and the industry as a whole. Matt Roach reported that Cardiff Airport had been bought back into the public sector by the Welsh Assembly.

Members noted that the Airport's Summer Schedule would be starting soon and that the first flight of the new twice weekly Flybe service to Barcelona had proved successful with a good load. The Isles of Scilly operation had been expanded and would be up to five times daily by the summer. Good progress had been made on work for housing the Police helicopter on site and Fire Service accommodation and it was anticipated that completion for both would be in May/June.

The Hampton by Hilton Hotel was expected to open on 29 April. Hangar 3, which had previously been occupied by Flybe, was now vacant and available to let for aviation related activities.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

***30 Complaints Handling**

Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director, EDAL, reported that there had been two complaints and one comment received since the last meeting. The first was concerning the perceived increase in night time flights and noise pollution that accompanied these flights, in particular a plane flying over their house at 0207. The second was from a resident of the Pynes Hill area of Exeter and concerned a flight at 0620 hours which woke up the residents of a house. The comment was concerning Royal Mail flight times and these had now been added to the Airport website. All complainants had been written to and an explanation given. Members noted the low number of complaints considering the predominantly easterly winds during the period.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

***31 Any other business**

Airport Master Plan

Members discussed a request from Richard Bartlett representing Woodbury Parish Council that Airport Management comment on the Department for Transport (DfT) forecast issued during January 2013 that predicted Exeter Airport would handle 1m passengers in 2030. It was noted that the Addendum to the Master Plan predicted 3.25m in the same year. He was concerned over the effect this overestimation

*31 **Any other business** (Cont)

Airport Master Plan

of passenger numbers may have on the amount of employment and housing land put forward in the Local Plan for the surrounding area.

Matt Roach referred to a letter received from Richard Cohen, Deputy Chief Executive of EDDC, which echoed previous discussions on the subject which questioned who relevant passenger number projections were to housing demand in the Local Plan. Andrew Wood, East of Exeter Projects Director reported that good progress had been made on house building at Cranbrook and it was hoped that the development at Sky Park could proceed with a number of jobs created. There was not necessarily a direct correlation between passenger numbers at the Airport and the need for housing in the Local Plan. He considered that any review of the Airport Master Plan was the responsibility of the Airport and its management.

During discussions the following comments were noted:

- The Airport Master Plan would be revised at the appropriate time in view of the national economic situation and the lower demand for flights;
- The Local Plan did not have to be the same as the Airport Master Plan;
- The Airport currently employed 260 people;
- The need to be cautious about DfT predictions for passenger numbers for the Airport;
- Dialogue would continue between the airport and EDDC to ensure that realistic passenger numbers continued to be taken into account for the benefit of the Local Plan;
- An independent inspector would consider the East Devon Local Plan in 2014.

All members of the Consultative Group wished to indicate their whole hearted support both now and in the future for Exeter International Airport and Flybe.

Clyst Honiton Bypass

Members noted that good progress had been made on the Clyst Honiton bypass and it was hoped that it would be opened at the end of April or early May.

*32 **Date of the next meeting**

RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Group be held on Wednesday, 19 June 2013, commencing at **3.15 pm**.

Chairman Date