

## EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT CONFERENCE ROOM, EXETER AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2013

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Richard Bartlett (Chairman)	Woodbury Parish Council
	Councillor David Miller(Vice Chair)	Rockbeare Parish Council
	Matt Roach	EDAL
	Gary Holley	Flybe
	Chris Lane	East Devon District Council
	Stephen Wiltshire	EDAL
	Councillor Ian Holmes	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Councillor Don Axford	Bishops Clyst Parish Council
	Councillor Noel Finegan	Aylesbeare Parish Council
	Andy Wood	New Growth Point Team
	Lynne Askew	Clyst Honiton Parish Council
	Rufus Heald	Airport User
	Richard Bristowe	Aviation South West
	Jo Talbot	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Councillor Derek Button	Broadclyst Parish Council
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Councillor Martin Thurgood	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Richard Cohen	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Phil Twiss	East Devon District Council
	Yolanda Henson	Exeter City Council

The meeting started at 3.15 pm and ended at 4.25 pm.

#### \*16 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 September 2013, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

#### \*17 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### \*18 **Report of the Managing Director**

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

The Consultative Group noted that passenger traffic for August was 92,341 an improvement of 15% on August 2012 passenger numbers. September was also a successful month for passenger traffic with total passenger traffic in line with forecast and exceeding budget by 5% and prior year by 11%. These improved passenger figures were due to a number of factors, including increased load factors and additional flights to the Isles of Scilly, Alicante, Faro, Malaga and the new services to Barcelona and Nice.

\*18 **Report of the Managing Director (Cont)**

Passenger traffic for October was 4% lower than forecast in the month, however traffic exceeded the previous year by 3%. Schedule domestic passenger traffic was 2% higher than forecast and 5% higher than last year. However, international scheduled passenger traffic was 8% lower than forecast, but 8% higher than October 2012. It was a disappointing month for Charter passenger traffic with a 6% decrease in forecast and a 2% decrease in comparison to prior year. It was anticipated that November would be in line with budget but 2% down on passenger numbers compared with the previous year. Passenger numbers for 2013 had already exceeded those of 2012.

Matt Roach, Managing Director, EDAL reported on his attendance at the annual AOA Conference at which there a number of important industry speakers such as Willie Walsh, Michael O'Leary and Howard Davies. The Conference had focussed on the importance of reducing Air Passenger Duty and aimed to get across the vital role regional airports played in the local economy.

Members noted that the Rigby Group, new owners of the Airport had emphasised the importance of making a sense of arrival when coming to the Airport and work was underway to ensure that passengers arriving had a better sense of arrival and were made aware that Exeter was an important International Airport.

Flybe were undergoing further restructuring and it was expected that further staff would be made redundant, of which a number would be at Exeter. It was noted that Flybe would be reviewing its route network, its fleet efficiency and possible further redundancies in engineering and head office. The main focus for further restructuring would be pilots and cabin crew with a number of the smaller Flybe bases closing as Flybe operated a number of routes which were not economic to run.

Members discussed recent speculation around the future of the Flybe Academy after the statement by the new Flybe Chief Executive that it was not a core part of the business. However, it had been reported that the Training Academy was no longer loss making and was now breaking even.

The Consultative Group wished to congratulate the Managing Director and his team on the improvement in passenger numbers in 2013 against the background of difficult circumstances.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted;

\*19 **Complaints Handling**

Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director reported that there had been three complaints received since the last meeting:

- The first was a complaint from the Quay area of Exeter, concerning noisy aircraft this summer.
- The second was from Dawlish and concerned being woken up by early morning departures from Exeter Airport.
- The third complaint concerned being woken at 2.00am by noisy low level aircraft.

All respondents had been written to and an explanation of the Airport's operations given.

\*19 **Complaints Handling** (Cont)

Members also received a written complaint from a property adjacent to the Airport regarding the increased disturbance from Royal Mail vehicles in the early hours of the morning.

**RESOLVED**

1. that the report be noted;
2. that Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director investigate the complaint regarding the disturbance to a local property regarding Royal Mail vehicles passing this property and respond appropriately on behalf of the Consultative Group.

\*20 **Date of the next meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Group be held on Wednesday, 19 February 2014, commencing at 3.15 pm.

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