

EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT CONFERENCE ROOM, EXETER AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2014

PRESENT:	Richard Bartlett (Chairman)	Woodbury Parish Council
	Angela Fletcher (Vice Chairman)	Farringdon Parish Council
	Matt Roach	EDAL
	Stephen Wiltshire	EDAL
	Councillor Phil Twiss	East Devon District Council
	Angie Hurren	Broadclyst Parish Council
	Councillor Don Axford	Bishops Clyst Parish Council
	Gary Holley	Flybe
	Chris Lane	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Noel Finegan	Aylesbeare Parish Council
	Lynne Askew	Clyst Honiton Parish Council
	Rufus Heald	Airport User
	Jo Talbot	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Richard Bristowe	Aviation South West
	Andy Wood	East Devon District Council
	David Mason	Rockbeare Parish Council
	Oonagh Reffell	Flybe
APOLOGIES	Michael Burden	Clyst Honiton Community Association
	Councillor Ian Holmes	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Ian Payne	Devon Air Ambulance Trust
	Paul Willoughby	Flybe

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

***24 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1 October 2014, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

***25 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

***26 Report of Chairman**

Richard Bartlett reported that he had been Chairman since June 2013 and he thanked fellow members of the Consultative Committee for giving up their time to attend the meetings and was pleased that attendance at the meetings had improved. He wished to thank Flybe for agreeing to attend the meetings and sharing information and the Airport Management for their support given, over and above the statutory requirement. Other progress during the year included the introduction of the new Constitution and the visits of the Consultative Committee to various facilities around the Airport. This had improved members knowledge of how the Airport and some of the businesses around it worked.

It was noted that the parishes surrounding the Airport had been overwhelmed with planning applications for housing developments blaming EDDC for not having an adopted Local Plan (up to 50% of other Local Authorities in England & Wales also did

not have an adopted Local Plan). Richard Bartlett, Chairman questioned whether there was the housing need for these developments in the area. The Airport was a barometer of success for the local economy and passenger numbers had increased from 738,000 in 2013 to 760,000 in the past year, a 4% increase.

***28 Report of East of Exeter Projects Director**

Andy Wood, East of Exeter Projects Director reported that there was currently a live planning application in for 900 houses on land adjacent to the Science Park. Members noted that there was a Consortium exhibition on Cranbrook which proposed to increase the number of houses from 3,500 to 7,500, including 1,500 houses to be built south of the old A30. This would bring the housing very close to Exeter Airport and potentially within noise decibel limits which could affect the operation of the Airport. (The plan for these homes was attached to the minutes). If approved this planning application would increase the number of people living at Cranbrook to around 20,000 people over the next 20 years. It was anticipated that the planning application if submitted later in the month, due to its size, would not be validated until the New Year.

With the approval for the super computer for the Met Office, it was expected that there would be up to 10,000 jobs created at the Science Park, Sky Park and the Multimodal terminal over the coming years.

Andy Wood was thanked for his report.

***29 Complaints Handling**

Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director, EDAL, reported that there had been 3 noise complaints since the last meeting, 2 of which had been from the same family in West Hill. These complaints had involved the Thomson aircraft taking off early in the morning. Members noted that all noise abatement procedures had been adopted for these takeoffs. The final complaint was from Exeter and concerned an essential medical transport flight containing transplant organs.

Members of the Consultative Committee wished to express their view that the Airport was responding in a reasonable manner to the noise complaints received and the ensuing noise experienced by local residents was nothing more than they could expect when living in close proximity to an International Airport.

***30 Report of the Managing Director**

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

The Consultative Committee noted that passenger numbers for September 2014 were 3% higher than September 2013 and 3% up on budget. October was 6% down on the previous year, but 6% up on budget. Passenger numbers for November were expected to be 16% better than the same month in 2013. One of the reasons for the growth in domestic scheduled passenger traffic was the improvement in load factors, with Flybe working to improve load factors on all its routes. Other reasons were the start of the London City route plus Newcastle and a fourth Manchester service.

The launch of the London City route on 27 October 2014 had been very successful with good press coverage. There was still a need to build up passenger numbers, but the early morning flights were proving very popular. The new security area with fast track security for those taking the London City service had started and was proving popular with passengers.

The Airport management had vacated the main admin floor in the terminal building and there would be a new executive lounge built in the space. The Airport management had moved into refurbished office accommodation in Hangar 3. Matt Roach, Managing Director EDAL was pleased to be able to report that the Flybe sun routes would be returning from March 2015, which would provide a strong foundation for the Airport moving forward into the next year.

It was also noted that work was progressing around improvements to the B3184 and in the early New Year there would be diversions from 5 January 2015 for a 6 week period when the road was temporarily made one way. There would then follow a period of night time road closures for the final resurfacing works. Details would be given to the public by South West Highways in due course.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

*31 **Report from Flybe representative**

Oonagh Reffell, Flybe reported that results for the business recently issued had not been as good as hoped for, mainly due to legacy issues surrounding the disposal of unwanted jet aircraft. The underlying structure of the business was good and it was hoped that further progress could be made in making the business more profitable. It was noted that the jet aircraft would be used for the summer routes to places such as Alicante and Palma.

It was the intention of Saad Hammad, Managing Director of Flybe to model the business as a feeder operation for bigger airlines. Don Axford, Bishops Clyst Parish Council, expressed a personal disappointment that Flybe no longer operated the direct flight to Glasgow and that the flight used Manchester as a hub, which greatly increased the cost of the flight. Oonagh Reffell agreed to feed back Councillor Axford's comments.

Members of the Consultative Committee expressed an interest in experiencing the Exeter to London City route and asked if Oonagh Reffell would investigate whether Flybe would consider providing subsidised seats for Consultative Committee members on one of the flights with lower loadings.

RESOLVED

1. that the report be noted;
2. that Oonagh Reffell, Flybe be requested to investigate whether Flybe would consider providing subsidised seats for Consultative Committee members on one of the London flights with lower loadings.

*32 **Date of the next meeting**

RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Committee be held on Wednesday, 18 February 2015.

Chairman Date