

EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, EXETER AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2015

PRESENT:	Councillor Richard Bartlett (Chairman) Councillor Angela Fletcher (Vice Chairman)	Woodbury Parish Council Farrington Parish Council
	Matt Roach Stephen Wiltshire Councillor Don Axford Chris Lane John Smith Councillor Noel Finegan Lynne Askew Rufus Heald Councillor David Mason Dave Montgomery	EDAL EDAL Bishops Clyst Parish Council East Devon District Council East Devon District Council Aylesbeare Parish Council Clyst Honiton Parish Council Airport User Rockbeare Parish Council Clyst Honiton Community Association
	Councillor Kevin Blakey Councillor Phil Twiss Councillor Ian Holmes Ian Payne Councillor Josefina Gori	Cranbrook Town Council EDDC Ottery St Mary Town Council DAAT Ottery St Mary Town Council
APOLOGIES	Paul Willoughby Councillor Henry Gent Councillor Phil Tucker	Flybe Broadclyst Parish Council Cranbrook Town Council

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

*20 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22 July 2015, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

*21 **Matters Arising**

Discussion on the Committee's Visits over the last twelve months (Minute *13 of 22 July refers)

That Sam Thomas, Planning Officer, be asked if she has raised the issue of the Consultative Committee being a consultee for planning applications which affect the airport with the Service Lead - Planning Strategy and Development Management.

*21 **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 July 2015 were 4% higher than last year, but 3% down on budget. August was 1% up on the previous year and September was expected to be 5% up on prior year. Annual passenger numbers for the airport were 809,088. One of the reasons for the growth in domestic scheduled passenger traffic was the continued improvement in load factors, with Flybe

working to improve load factors on all its routes with a more competitive price structure.

It was noted that numbers for the Flybe London City flight were showing a 55% load factor. The time of the evening return flight would be changing from 8.05pm to 5.25pm, in response to demand and along with a marketing campaign, it was anticipated that this would increase passenger numbers further. The Flybe winter schedule was starting from 26 October and would include the return of flights to Glasgow.

Matt Roach, Managing Director EDAL, further reported on the impact on the airport of various planning applications in the area and management's attendance at the LEP Annual Conference. There was also a continued aspiration to improve Long Lane and the Airport forecourt. There was the possibility of applying for LEP funding to assist with these works. Members noted that the airport management were also trying to further develop relationships with the Plymouth business community, with a view to further growing passenger numbers.

A Committee member raised the issue of the marketing of the number of connections to other places from Exeter. Matt Roach, Managing Director, EDAL, agreed that this was an area that could be improved upon to publicise the number of connections available from Exeter Airport. On a similar issue, another Committee member asked about the potential for connection to the USA from Exeter via Dublin. Members noted that Flybe had a code share with Aer Lingus which would help with this process.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

***22 Report from EDDC representative**

The EDDC representative Councillor Phil Twiss reported on an Economy class flight one of his staff had booked from Exeter to Dubai, via Manchester using a through ticket on Flybe/Emirates at a price of £443, the fare element being £104 including luggage, the tax element £339. The Flybe website, with one piece of luggage showed the Exeter to Manchester return to Exeter of the itinerary at £109.93 (including tax at £65.17, checked luggage at £30 with the actual return ticket cost of £14.76 which would hardly cover the fuel costs towards Bristol let alone the other overhead costs).

Councillor Twiss felt this example illustrated the effect of fixed, not percentage of the total ticket price taxes airline operators faced and how difficult operationally and financially ites could be for airlines.

***23 Report from Flybe representative**

In the absence of the Flybe representative the Chairman, Richard Bartlett, gave an update on Flybe activities. Flybe were settling in well to their new base in Cardiff and passenger numbers were encouraging. They had come to the conclusion that UK regional routes were saturated and growth would be concentrated on short haul European routes.

Although the head of route planning had recently resigned, the 2016 summer schedule was being planned and a final decision on this would be taken in the New Year. The deliveries of Q400s from the USA were slowing up. Flybe was applying for finance from the Governments' Regional Support Fund, which would provide a 50% support on handling and landing fees. Additionally, 100 staff were being made redundant in the call centre as it was being relocated to Eastern Europe.

The Consultative Committee accepted that Flybe was working hard to improve their business and wished them well in this regard. They noted that the Training Academy and Engineering businesses seemed to be operating successfully.

***24 Complaints Handling**

Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director, EDAL reported that there had been no complaints received since the last meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

***25 Any other business**

Late Lanzarote Flight

Councillor Phil Twiss reported that some of his customers had reported that the terminal area was untidy for this late flight. Matt Roach, Managing Director, EDAL, reported that he would take this issue up with the relevant franchise holders.

Noise report for Airport

John Smith, EHO, EDDC, reported that he was undertaking a number of interim noise reports on the Airport in connection with the Consortiums planning applications for further residential development at Cranbrook. A final report would be made to the Consortium at the end of October and he agreed to keep Consultative committee members informed of the results.

Liaison with other Regional Airports

Richard Bartlett, Chairman, reported that it was important that members of the Consultative Committee were aware of what happened at other Regional Airports and suggested that a small group of Consultative Committee members may benefit from a visit to Bristol Airport to meet their Consultative Committee and have a tour around the airport. Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director EDAL would speak to his opposite number at Bristol Airport to see if a visit could be arranged before July 2016.

RESOLVED that a small group of Consultative Committee members visit Bristol Airport on a date to be agreed before July 2016.

***26 Date of the next meeting**

RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Committee be held on Wednesday, 9 December 2015, commencing at 3.15 pm.

Chairman Date