

Press Release - London City Airport Hosts UK Airports Consultative Committee

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Delegates from airports across the UK met in London today for the annual liaison meeting of airport consultative committees hosted this year by London City Airport.

The meeting discussed a full agenda on the whole range of current issues in the aviation industry including the need for slots at Heathrow Airport for regional services, surface access to airports including the plans for a high speed rail network, services at airports for disabled people, noise action plans, the latest developments in airport security and the planned changes in the economic regulation of the larger airports.

At a session yesterday afternoon London City Airport's chief executive, Richard Gooding, briefed delegates followed by presentations on improving passenger representation at airports given by representatives of the Department for Transport, the Civil Aviation Authority, the Air Transport Users Council and Passenger Focus.

Later, after dinner at Forman's restaurant, the delegates were addressed by Jim Fitzpatrick MP the Labour MP for Poplar and Limehouse (the constituency adjoining London City Airport), a former Minister for Aviation.

The meetings were chaired by John Adshead who heads London City Airport's consultative committee where the Airport discusses with representatives of the government, local authorities, consumer groups and its neighbours issues relating to the development and operation of the airport. "It is a great pleasure to have this year's meeting here at London City," commented John, "this meeting is a great opportunity to discuss common issues and share our experiences with each other."

Commenting on the meeting Richard Gooding said, “ London City Airport is delighted to be the host of this year’s liaison meeting. We work closely with our Consultative Committee and are proud of the constructive relationship this has fostered over many years. ”

ENDS

Notes for Editors

- (a) The airport consultative committees which participated in the meetings are Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton, Stansted, London City, Manchester, Bristol, Bournemouth, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool John Lennon, Leeds Bradford, East Midlands, Durham Tees Valley, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Prestwick, Aberdeen, Inverness and Belfast City
- (b) The consultative committees at these airports, together with those at Cardiff and Doncaster Sheffield, make up the Liaison Group of UK Airport Consultative Committees (UKACCs). There is more about the group on its website at <http://www.ukaccs.info/> Only airports with a passenger throughput in excess of 0.6 million passengers per annum are eligible for membership of the group.
- (c) Except for Belfast City the airports making up UKACCs are all designated under s.35 of the Airports Act 1982 for “the purposes of consultation”. Guidelines issued by the Department of Transport in London recommend such airports to set up a consultative committee. There are no such requirements in Northern Ireland but Belfast City Airport has set up such a group on a voluntary basis. It is understood that Belfast International Airport currently has no such committee but that there are plans again to set one up.
- (d) Prior to boundary changes Jim Fitzpatrick’s East End constituency included London City Airport.
- (e) The full programme for the meeting and the papers listed for discussion can be seen on the UKACCs website at <http://www.ukaccs.info/meeting10.htm>