

EDINBURGH AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY FIRST MEETING HELD AT THE QUALITY HOTEL EDINBURGH AIRPORT ON MONDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2010.

PRESENT: Alastair O'Neil (Chairman)
Tom Wright (Secretary)
Gordon Dewar Managing Director EAL
Gordon Robertson Communications Manager EAL
Bryan Gall Passenger Interests
Simon Van Heyningen The Consumers Association
John Miller Lothian & Borders Police
Bert Scott Edinburgh Airport Amenities Group
Joe Henderson Kirkliston Community Council
Andrew Mather Cramond Community Council
Sandy Smart STUC
Cllr Neil Rankin East Lothian Council
Cllr Gordon MacKenzie City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Donald Moffat Scottish Borders Council

APOLOGIES: Julie Matthews Airline Operators Committee
Jock Millican The Consumers Association
Alan Russell Fife Chamber of Commerce
Rod Graves Ratho & District Community Council
Cllr Alastair Campbell Clackmannanshire Council
Cllr Antony Martin Fife Council
Cllr Martyn Day West Lothian Council

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME: Chairman Alastair O'Neil welcomed Gordon Robertson and invited Gordon to give some information regarding his background and experience. He also welcomed Cllr Gordon MacKenzie who was attending his first meeting of the Committee. The Chairman thanked BAA for hosting the Committee to lunch to mark the One Hundred & Fiftieth Meeting of the Committee.

MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th NOVEMBER 2009 : The Minutes of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Meeting held on 16th November 2009 were approved.

MATTERS ARISING: Cllr Neil Rankin sought clarification of 'infrastructure' in the paragraph relating to Freight in the Minutes. The Managing Director advised that they were looking to improve the infrastructure at the Cargo Terminal to allow for expansion of business.

MANAGING DIRECTORS REPORT:

TRAFFIC FIGURES:

Passenger Figures: The passenger figures show a year on year increase of .5% . Domestic traffic fell by 5.8% whilst International traffic increased by 6.3%. The airport handled 9.05m passengers during the year. These figures are very credible compared to the decline in traffic at other airports. Prestwick Airport has shown a

decline of 31% in passenger numbers during 2009. However no great growth is anticipated during the year ahead.

The demise of Globespan resulted in a loss of 450000 passengers to the airport but it is encouraging to note that half of the services operated by that company have been taken up by other airlines. These airlines see Edinburgh as a good place to do business as it has a good punctuality record and is seen as a good destination for incoming passengers.

Air Traffic Movements: These figures show a decline of 20.9% over the period which is mostly due to the increase in the use of larger aircraft particularly on International business.

Traffic Mix: The mix for the period was Scheduled 98.8% and Charter 1.2%.

Freight: The figures here show a very small increase of .03% over the period. It is the intention to bring more details of this business to the Committee at a later date.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT:

Projects under construction:

Departure Lounge and Security Expansion: Phase 1 of this project was handed over in November 2009 and the reaction from passengers has been very favourable. It is the intention to open the new security hall during the 3rd week in July or earlier to accommodate the traffic during the Edinburgh holidays. The number of X-Ray machines will increase from 8 to 10 and there will be an increase of 25 % in the staffing numbers. 2 years ago the facility was handling 160 passengers per hour per X-Ray machine and this figure has now risen to 240 passengers per hour.

Improved Stand Entry Guidance: This project will upgrade the stand entry guidance systems with new technology that is now international standard. Installation will be phased in over a number of years and is due to be completed in 2012.

Landside Security Enhancements: This project will deliver permanent security protection measures to the terminal forecourt. Phase 1 was completed in December 2009 and the work is due to be finished by June 2010.

Projects completed:

Immigration Hall Expansion: Completed in December 2009 this project has delivered a new immigration hall and immigration staff offices and has reconfigured the immigration hall to provide an increased number of desks. There has been good cooperation between the airport and the Borders Agency and this is continuing whereby the Agency are ensuring that the facility is being manned to meet passenger requirements.

New Aircraft Stands 33 & 34: Two additional stands have been completed on the South East Ramp. There are now 27 aircraft parked overnight during the Winter months and this rises to 29 during the Summer.

Projects being developed:

Car Parking Capacity: The aim here is to provide short and long stay parking facilities to meet demand due to passenger growth.

Terminal Expansion: In order to meet forecast passenger growth, expansion of the terminal will be required with an extension of the South East Pier being considered. Comments were passed by members of the Committee on the distances passengers will be required to walk to and from the gates. A traveller will be installed on the ground floor when International flights are relocated there in the future.

Tram Enabling Works: These works are progressing well. Members of the Committee were asked to ensure that the organisations which they represent are made aware that

the tram is coming to the airport despite rumours to the contrary which have been circulating .

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT:

It is the intention to amalgamate the BAA Fund and the Edinburgh Fund. More details of this amalgamation will be provided to the Committee at a later date.

SURFACE ACCESS:

Bus Services: All services are operating satisfactorily and 27.5% of passengers to and from the airport are now using these services.

Roads: Following completion of the West Edinburgh Transport Appraisal a number of road infrastructure improvements have been identified. These include improvements to Eastfield Road and the need for a link from the M8 sometime in the future.

Rail: BAA has been consulted on the initial design of the new railway station to be constructed on the Fife line to the North of the Gogar Roundabout. It is expected that this facility will be operational by 2011. Discussions are taking place between TIE and Net Work Rail as to who will meet the costs of the road improvements required to access the station.

Tram: Edinburgh Airport continues to work with TIE regarding the implementation of the tram line works on airport land. The tram is now expected to become operational in 2012.

Taxi: A taxi contract has been renegotiated and became effective as from 1st January. A 3 year agreement has been put in place and the barrier charge raised from £1.50 to £2. It is understood that the taxi operators are in consultation with the City Council to enable them to raise their tariffs to meet the additional costs.

The matter of a fixed standard fee which is common at foreign airports was raised but it was advised that there could be difficulties in operating such a system at Edinburgh.

NOISE COMPLAINT ANALYSIS:

Edinburgh Airport Noise Action Plan: The public consultation on the introduction of a noise mitigation and insulation scheme continues until the end of February. To date there has been 5 responses to this consultation. It is expected that the new scheme will be introduced in 2010.

General Update: During the period October to December 2009 Edinburgh Airport received 10 complaints relating to aircraft noise from 9 different individuals. Of the six complaints made about aircraft being too noisy, none were found to have broken the noise thresholds set down by the UK Government.

PASSENGER SERVICES:

New Services: 17 new services have been announced and will commence operations between March and June 2010.

Customer Complaint Analysis: During the 4 months October 2009 to January 2010 the airport received 79 3rd party complaints, 157 complaints, 51 compliments and 28 suggestions. The complaints included the length of queues at security, damaged luggage, parking tariffs and lack of shops prior to entering security, the loss of Pauls café and the lack of facilities provided for smokers outside the Terminal.

A number of compliments had been received regarding the service being provided by the security staff and the new extensions to the terminal.

Weather: The Managing Director gave a report on the bad weather which had been experienced in December. There had been 32 snow incidents but only one substantial

closure on 23rd December. He was confident that the airport had performed well in extremely difficult conditions. The bulk of disruption to passengers had been the closures of other airports particularly in the South of England. The cost to the airport was in the region of £500000.

AOCB:

Recruitment of Staff: Questions were raised regarding this and it was advised that there were no shortage of applicants as the airport was regarded as an attractive place to work. Only 10% of the staff are directly employed by BAA.

Competitions Commission: The Commission have appealed against the decision made in favour of BAA in connection with the sale of their airports. It is not envisaged that there will be a sale of either Edinburgh or Glasgow this year.

Ann Follin: It was intimated that Ann Follin Head of Planning had decided to take early retirement. Both the Chairman and the Secretary had written to Ann to thank her for her input and considerable assistance to the Committee over the years.

Date of next meeting: The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Monday 10th May.