

EDINBURGH AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND MEETING HELD AT THE QUALITY HOTEL EDINBURGH AIRPORT ON MONDAY 16th MAY 2005.

PRESENT: Alastair S O'Neil (Chairman)
Tom Wright (Secretary)
Richard Jeffrey Managing Director EAL
Donal Dowds Managing Director SAL
Rachel Cameron Public Relations Manager BAA Scotland
Bryan Gall Passenger Interests
David Gray Airline Operators Committee
John Pennycook Community Police Officer
Bob Armour Edinburgh Airport Amenities Group
Hamish Stears Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce
Joe Henderson Kirkliston & Ratho Districts Community Council
Keith Meakin General Manager NATS
Sandy Smart STUC
Kate MacKenzie
Cllr Alastair Campbell Clackmannshire Council
Cllr David Costello East Lothian Council
Cllr David King West Lothian Council
Cllr James Dunsmuir Midlothian Council
Cllr Shami Khan City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr John Longstaff City of Edinburgh Council
Clive Brown City of Edinburgh Council
Derek Beveridge Fife Council

APOLOGIES: James Price Fife Chamber of Commerce
Cllr James Philp Fife Council
Trond Haugen Fife Council

WELCOME: Chairman Alastair O'Neil welcomed those present and in particular Sandy Smart who is representing the STUC on the Committee, Donal Dowds, Cllr James Dunsmuir who was substituting for Cllr James Muirhead Midlothian Council and Derek Beveridge who was standing in for Trond Haugen of Fife Council.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14th FEBRUARY 2005: The Minutes of the One Hundred and Thirty First Meeting held at the Quality Hotel Edinburgh Airport on Monday 14th February 2005 were approved.

MATTERS ARISING: The Fire Service strike at Glasgow Airport had been resolved with no overspill to Edinburgh.

MANAGING DIRECTORS REPORT:

Richard Jeffrey advised that the 3 months in question had been uneventful with steady business growth and continued investment.

Traffic Figures: The rate of growth decreased by 0.8% from the last quarter (7.0%) to this quarter (6.2%). There had been a slight increase in low cost carriers over the traditional carriers. The year to date passenger figures at 8,045,517 showed an increase of 6.2% on last years figures. The traffic mix for the period was 38% low cost and 62% full service. Charter traffic was 9% against 91% scheduled.

Planning & Development: The capital spend for the financial year just ended was £45m. The new air traffic control tower will be handed over to NATS on 1st July and it will be operational by October. Work is due to start in the Autumn of 2005 to centralise all the car rental facilities on one site and this will be completed by early 2006. A project will commence in September to construct a two storey pier to serve the south east apron. The value of this work is £14.3m.

Route Development: One new route, BMI Baby to Birmingham commenced in January and Globespan are to start new routes to Prague and Stansted in the near future. It was particularly pleasing to see the increase of flights by Continental to New York. It was agreed that any reductions or ending of routes will be included in the report in future.

Onward Travel:

Taxis: It is intended that the new system for taxi operations at the airport will be operational by 1st January 2006 although new agreements have still to be reached with various bodies particularly the private hire operators. BAA was not prepared to delay the completion of these contracts until the situation regarding the 'Greenways Road' position had been clarified. There is a risk with the proposed new system in that there is no guarantee that there will be an adequate number of taxis available for passengers at all times.

Buses: The Airlink Bus Service is now operating from a new site in front of the terminal building and it is hoped that this development will help to increase the use of public transport by passengers to the target figure of 25%. Derek Beveridge of Fife Council advised that there had been problems in obtaining a Route Development Grant to operate a service from Fife direct to the airport. It is hoped that these problems can be resolved and that a service will be in operation by the end of 2005.

Roads: The roads around West Edinburgh are becoming very congested. As the Scottish Executive is to undertake a transport modelling exercise as part of the background for the West Edinburgh Planning Framework EAL has decided to await the outcome of that study before submitting any planning applications for new access roads.

Trams: This project is presently going through the Scottish Parliament. EAL has objected to the site of the tram halt at the airport and to the crossing of Eastfield Road.

Rail Link: The Bill regarding this project is due to go to the Scottish Parliament on 31st May. It is hoped that it will come before Parliament prior to the Summer recess but there is no guarantee as to when the Parliament will deal with this matter.

Welcome Signs: It had been hoped to erect welcome signs on the roundabout at the entrance to the airport with the assistance of a commercial sponsor. However as the City of Edinburgh Council does not allow advertising by commercial concerns on roundabouts this has been delayed.

NOISE/ROUTING COMPLAINT ANALYSIS:

Following upon the installation of the noise monitoring and tracking equipment the incidents of infringements has decreased as pilots become more aware of the process. Complaints were raised regarding the noise being made by RAF aircraft. It was advised that this VC10 aircraft was being used for troop carrying and that the RAF adopted different procedures from commercial aviation. Kate Mackenzie raised the matter of deposits on clothes, fences etc in the Cramond area. It was agreed that EAL would arrange for someone to visit the area to take samples for analysis. The possibility of installing an air quality monitor would be considered.

Keith Meakin NATS is to speak at the Cramond Community Council meeting to explain the approach procedures and to try to alleviate concerns which have been expressed locally.

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK: The overall scores for departures and arrivals remained at 4.0 and 4.1 respectively, with the MAT at the same scores. The ratio of compliments to complaints is very good and remains the best in the Group. The Committee requested again that they be informed of the categories which are not performing well. EAL is taking part in a Scottish Executive initiative with the STUC on anger management. This includes protecting staff from abuse from travellers , reminding people what is and what is not acceptable and working with staff as to how to defuse difficult situations.

MASTERPLAN: This will be published on 19th May followed by a three month consultation period. There have been no changes to the Plan since it was presented to the Committee.

NOISE & BLIGHT CONSULTATION : This has now been completed and it is hoped that the final schemes will be published by the end of June.

G8 SUMMIT JULY 2005: All the major dignitaries will be using Prestwick Airport although Edinburgh has been designated as the diversion airport.

HEINEKIN CUP MAY 2005: Some 20000 French rugby supporters are expected through the airport over the weekend of 21st/22nd May.

ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOWGROUND: The Scottish Executive have appointed consultants with a view to finding a new site.

EDINBURGH AIRPORT –AIRSPACE CHANGE PROPOSAL:

Keith Meakin General Manager NATS explained that certain changes had required to be made to the controlled airspace at the airport. He had sent out details of these changes to all the members of the Committee and he requested that these changes be endorsed. The Committee agreed to do so.

AOCB: Donal Dowds advised that business was going well at BAA's three Scottish Airports. He complimented the Management at Edinburgh on the way the airport was being run. Cllr James Dunsmuir wished it put on record how the members of Midlothian Council had appreciated Richard Jeffrey visiting them to outline developments at the airport. Tom Howe has now retired and David Lister will take up his duties as Customer Services Director on 1st June. David Gray intimated that he was being transferred to Glasgow and that a new Chairman of the Airlines Operators Committee would be appointed shortly.

The next meeting will be held in the Quality Hotel Edinburgh Airport on Monday 15th August 2005.