

EDINBURGH AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY NINTH MEETING HELD AT THE QUALITY HOTEL EDINBURGH AIRPORT ON MONDAY 16th AUGUST 2004

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
Ian Dickson ABTA
John Pennycook Community Police Officer
Bob Armour Edinburgh Airport Amenities Group
Hamish Stears Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce
Joe Henderson Kirkliston & Ratho Districts Community Council
John Henry Scottish Trade Union Council
James Price Fife Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Alastair Campbell Clackmannanshire Council
Cllr David Costello East Lothian Council
Cllr David King West Lothian Council
Cllr James Philp Fife Council
Cllr Shami Khan City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr John Longstaff City of Edinburgh Council
Clive Brown City of Edinburgh Council
John Mitchell Fife Council

APOLOGIES:

Tom Howe Service Delivery Director EAL
Jack Munro Edinburgh & Lothians Tourist Board
Cllr James Muirhead Midlothian Council
Keith Meakin General Manager NATS

WELCOME:

Chairman Alastair O'Neil welcomed those present and in particular Donal Dowds and John Mitchell of Fife Council who was deputising for Trond Haugen

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10th May 2004: The Minutes of the One Hundred and Twenty Eighth Meeting held at the Quality Hotel Edinburgh Airport on Monday 10th May were approved with the following amendment. Under Edinburgh Airspace Change Proposal after 'which will' in the second last sentence the following to be inserted. ' also transmit a signal to direct aircraft departing from Runway 0/6 onto the required NPR track. This will provide a much better service to aircraft arriving and departing from the airport'.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

MANAGING DIRECTORS QUARTERLY REVIEW:

Richard Jeffrey advised that there had been a restructuring of management within EAL. Tom Howe previously Operations Director is now Service Delivery Director and Frank McCrorie Airport Operations Manager will now be responsible for all aspects of Service Delivery with the exception of security and maintenance. Keira Pierce has been appointed as Passenger Services Manager and Mark Johnston and Elizabeth Cargill have left the Company. These changes will ensure greater focus on passenger services and better relations with the airlines.

Traffic Figures: The Moving Annual Total showed an increase of 6.6% over the previous year. The low cost traffic has fallen from 33% last year to 31.8% this year whilst the full service airlines have risen by .8% to 67%. The charter traffic had fallen by 1.9% to 6.6%. The new Continental Airlines service to Newark has been very successful with load factors of 94%. There are currently no plans to operate flights to the Middle East and Asia but the Emirates service from Glasgow to Dubai is proving to be a success albeit with a great proportion of the passengers originating in Scotland.

Planning and Development:

Air Traffic Control Tower: Work commenced on this project in May 2004 with it being completed and operational by October 2005.

Parallel Taxiways Extensions: This project will be completed by November 2004

Stand 7 Infill Project: Work commenced on this project in November 2003 and is due to be completed by March 2005

International Arrivals Project: This project involved the remodeling of the International arrivals route, including provision of a new escalator and lift and was completed in April 2004.

Flood Prevention Project: Works to the Gogarburn have already been completed. A scheme to prevent fluvial flooding from the River Almond is at the design stage.

Airfield Ground Lighting (AGL) Upgrade: This project will replace the existing AGL system and is linked to the ATC and Parallel Taxiway Extensions Projects. Work started in June 2004 with completion due in September 2005.

Multi Storey Car Park: Work on this project is due to be completed by 30th August 2004 with an opening date of 6th September .

Surface Water Infrastructure: This Project will ensure sufficient capacity in the surface water infrastructure system to accommodate future developments.

Minor Projects: A number of minor projects are underway. These include various works to upgrade and improve the Fire Station, wayfinding projects within the short and long stay parks and the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit in the forecourt and approach roads. The cost of these projects is £4m.

Overall £70m of projects is either on site or detailed and are part of £200m development programme.

Route Development: Although the list for new routes announced but not yet started is small Edinburgh is regarded as a good place to operate by the airlines and EAL are hopeful that they will have further good news on new routes by the end of 2004.

Onward Travel:

Taxis: From 1st August Executive Onward Travel have taken over as the management agent from Sky Cabs. Discussions are still ongoing with regard to the future of the airport taxi operation.

Roads: A planning application is being prepared for a new access road from the Gogarburn roundabout to serve the airport at an estimated cost of £20m. Upon completion of the new Royal Bank of Scotland headquarters it is anticipated that congestion will increase on the A8. It is hoped that a project to build a link from the M8 to the airport can be included in the West Edinburgh Planning Network Plan.

EAL has contacted the Licencing Authority to place a condition on the Entertainment Licence for the Royal Highland Showground where more than 5000 people are involved whereby they would be obliged to involve the Police regarding traffic control etc. as problems have arisen with road access due to congestion being caused by large events such as TruckFest.

Rail: The feasibility studies are progressing. A further report on the viability of the project is due in December 2004.

Tram: EAL supports the principle of the tram proposals but has concerns about certain details of the scheme such as the location of the tram depot at the Gogarburn roundabout, the crossing of Eastfield Road and the location of the tram halt at the airport.

Buses: EAL has contacted Fife Council to support them in an application to operate a new bus route linking Inverkeithing Station, the Ferry Toll Park and Ride Site and the airport. It is proposed to operate a half hour service.

Noise/ Routing Complaint Analysis: During April 10 complaints were received compared to 7 in April 2004, in May 2 complaints were received the same as in May 2003 and in June 7 were received an increase of 1 on the June 2003 figure.

Customer Feedback April-June 2004:

Quality of Service Measure: Passengers rate the elements of service on a scale of one to five. For the period the overall QSM rating for Arrivals was 4.1 and for Departures 4.0. 16.3% of Arriving passengers rated the service excellent and 0.2% rated the service poor or very poor. For Departing passengers 10.8% rated the service excellent and 0.8% as poor or very poor.

Complaints and Compliments: For the rolling 12 months Edinburgh received 44 complaints and 16 compliments per million passengers a ratio of 3.1 the best in the BAA Group.

VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT ON AIR PASSENGER SERVICE:

As a report to the Government is only required on an annual basis it was proposed that instead of presenting a report quarterly to the Committee this should be done on an annual basis at the first meeting following upon the end of the BAA Group financial year. This was agreed.

ANNUAL MEETING OF AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES:

A paper giving a synopsis of the meeting had been sent out with the Minutes. A point was raised regarding the effect on radar by wind farms and the BAA policy is that pending technical advances if a proposed wind farm was seen as having an impact on the air traffic radar system an objection would be lodged.

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT:

Following upon the Government's White Paper on Aviation, EAL intend on 16th September to publish a Consultation Document for communities around the airport to cover possible compensation schemes which might apply due to noise and planning. It is hoped that as a result of this consultation that these schemes will be published early in 2005. There will be 3 schemes covering the following 1) Properties which fall within the existing airport boundaries 2) Noise sensitive properties such as hospitals and schools which fall within the 63 decibels contour and 3) Residential properties falling within the 69 decibels contour and properties which may fall within the 66 decibel contour of any new runway. Any such schemes will not become active until the airport announces it is to start work on the preparation of the planning permission process.

ADDRESS BY DONAL DOWDS MD SAL :

At the invitation of the Chairman Mr Dowds addressed the meeting and covered a wide range of subjects including the White Paper on Aviation, the changes of structure within BAA in general and the Scottish airports in particular whereby greater responsibilities would be passed on to the Managing Directors of the individual airports. He was confident that there was ample scope for growth and BAA is committed to meeting the capacity as a result of this growth.

AOCB: The dates for the meetings in 2005 are as follows: 14th February, 16th May, 15th August and 21st November.

The next meeting will be held on 15th November and it will commence at 10am in the Conference Room within the Terminal Building. This will be followed by a tour of the airport and Committee members will require for security purposes to bring with them a passport or a photo driving licence. Further details will be sent out with the next minutes but it is important that Committee members inform the Secretary in advance whether they intend to be present.