

EDINBURGH AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

**MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY SECOND MEETING
HELD AT THE QUALITY HOTEL EDINBURGH AIRPORT ON MONDAY
19th NOVEMBER 2007.**

PRESENT: Alastair O'Neil (Chairman)
Tom Wright (Secretary)
David Lister Customer Services Director EAL
Kevin Lang Public Affairs Manager EAL
Bryan Gall Passenger Interests
Moira Scott ABTA
Margo MacDonald MSP The Consumers Association
David Law Lothians & Borders Police
John Miller Lothians & Borders Police
Mark Stuart Airlines Operators Committee
Bob Armour Edinburgh Airport Amenities Group
Joe Henderson Kirkliston Community Council
April Fyfe Ratho & District Community Council
Alan Russell Fife Chamber of Commerce
Graham Birse Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce
Sandy Smart STUC
Nigel Warner NATS
Cllr Alastair Campbell Clackmannanshire Council
Cllr Antony Martin Fife Council
Cllr Phil Wheeler City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Neil Rankin East Lothian Council
Cllr Donald Moffat Scottish Borders Council

APOLOGIES: David Johnston Managing Director EAL
Avril Gray Passenger Interests
Bill Scholes Cramond Community Council
Cllr William Buchanan Falkirk Council

WELCOME: Chairman Alastair O'Neil welcomed Moira Scott, Mark Stuart, Graham Birse and Nigel Warner who were attending their first meeting of the Committee. He advised that on health grounds Hamish Stears a long standing member of the Committee had submitted his resignation. Letters of appreciation and good wishes had been sent by the Chairman and Secretary.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13th AUGUST 2007 :

The Minutes of the One Hundred and Forty First Meeting held on 13th August 2007 were approved.

MATTERS ARISING: With regard to the matter raised by Bob Armour the figures have now been corrected. New signage will be erected in Security in January. The total number of passengers for the period May-June should have read 2,377,066.

RESURFACING OF MAIN RUNWAY: Kevin Jamieson and Christina Doyle gave a short presentation on the work to be carried out to resurface the 06/24 runway. The surface of a runway normally lasts for 10-15 years and the runway at Edinburgh was last resurfaced in 1991. Work will commence on 30th March 2008 and will be completed by 14th November 2008. The work will be carried out at night from Sunday to Thursday inclusive. There will be a downgrading of the lighting pattern which will reduce capability in bad weather.

All night time traffic at present 12 movements per night will use runway 12/30 and this will result in a considerable noise disturbance to over 40000 households who are at present not affected by aircraft noise. It is the intention to hold workshops attended by MP's MSP's , Councillors and Community Councils to explain what is involved and the necessity that this work is carried out. It is also the intention to inform the households affected.

MANAGING DIRECTORS REPORT: David Lister and Kevin Lang reported as follows:

TRAFFIC FIGURES: During the period Domestic Passenger figures have fallen by 1.8% whilst International figures had risen by 23.3%. The total number of passengers for the 3 months to September was 2,659,381. There had been a slight decline of 1.3% in Air Transport Movements due mainly to greater load factors and the use of bigger aircraft.

Freight traffic showed a drop of 9.4% over the corresponding period in 2006.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT:

Projects under construction: A project to construct 3 additional aircraft stands is under way at a cost of £5m. This is due to be completed by March 2008. The x ray machines which screen hold baggage will be replaced by new equipment which will have the most up to date technology and which will improve the speed and efficiency of the screening process. This project will be completed by January 2009.

Projects being developed:

Check In and Domestic Arrivals Configuration: This project will relocate facilities and services out of the check in hall and into the domestic arrivals area. As a result there will be an increase in queuing space and will allow greater circulation. In the domestic arrivals hall the reconfiguration will enhance the security of the domestic baggage reclaim.

Consolidated Car Rental Centre: A new centre will be provided for the car hire operations. The 8 car hire operators will be relocated from their current locations.

Departure Lounge and Security Expansion: This project will considerably expand the existing departure lounge and will also relocate and expand the security area.

Immigration Hall Expansion: This project will deliver a new immigration holding facility and will relocate the existing immigration staff offices. As a result the immigration hall will be expanded in order to provide a better customer service for international passengers.

The total Capital Expenditure for 2008 will be in the region of £42m.

SECURITY: There has been a considerable investment in machinery and staff. The number of x-ray machines has been increased from 6 to 10 and staff numbers have risen by 20 to give an increase of 66 new staff over the past year. The performance target whereby 96% of passengers are passed through the security within 5 minutes is being achieved. Surveys of customers show that 89% are satisfied that the target is being met. The Department of Transport has asked all airports to be in a position to relax the one hand baggage rule commencing on 7th January and to be achieved by 31st May. Edinburgh expects to be in a position to comply with this request shortly after the commencement date. The position thereafter will be to comply with each airlines policy regarding hand luggage.

The restrictions on the carrying of liquids will continue.

COMMUNITY ISSUES:

Vortex: Five households in Newbridge had contacted the airport following the launch of the vortex compensation scheme. Chartered surveyors had reviewed each property and provided a written report in each case. They concluded that the existing damage on each property was not vortex related.

I-volunteer awards: Edinburgh with 65 applications had more than any airport in the BAA Group. The awards seek to recognise and reward staff who volunteer in their communities or raise money for charity.

SURFACE ACCESS:

Bus: All bus services continue to operate satisfactorily. The Lothian Bus Airlink Service is particularly successful and the Company have invested heavily in new buses. The Stagecoach 747 Service is operating well ahead of the funding arrangement targets. The funding arrangements run for 3 years and thereafter the operator has to operate without funding for a further year. No bus company has come forward to operate a service from North West Edinburgh to the airport.

The Edinburgh Airport Shuttle Bus Service has proved to be very successful and the service has been extended to Leith and Morningside.

Roads: The Final West Edinburgh Planning Framework will be published in 2008. Following upon representations from BAA Edinburgh the Scottish Executive has now accepted that the traffic modelling results in respect of the benefits of an M8 link were incorrectly reported in the draft document. The revised modelling will take into account the change of policy on EARL. BAA are pleased with the progress which is being made on this matter. Talks are taking place regarding the provision of a new road linking Gogar to the airport either giving direct access to the Gogar roundabout or to the A8 adjacent to the RBS site. The road would have dedicated bus lanes and would be independent from the tram route. With the fragility of Eastfield Road it is essential that a replacement road to the airport is forthcoming.

Rail: On 27th September a statement was made in the Scottish Parliament announcing the decision of the Scottish Government not to proceed with EARL. An alternative scheme has been proposed which would provide a new rail station at Gogar, an interchange with the airport tram line and a new rail link, connecting the Glasgow and Fife lines north of the airport. It is understood that this project will be funded by the Scottish Government. Concern was expressed regarding finding a suitable site for the station and whether the tram would be able to cope with the passenger numbers travelling between the station and the airport.

Tram: BAA Edinburgh has continued to work with TIE regarding the implementation of the tram works on airport land. Revised passenger targets will now be set to take account of the change of policy on EARL.

Taxis: BAA Edinburgh has decided to go ahead with the process of putting out to tender the operation of the black cab rank by one company. Only vehicles owned by that company will be able to pick up at the rank. The rank will be controlled by a taxi marshal. At the present time the number of taxis in the rank exceeds the demand by passengers. It is hoped that the new operator will be in place by Christmas. Over the last few months some 60 taxi drivers have been banned from operating at the airport due to their breaking the taxi protocol. It was emphasised that these drivers were in the minority.

Forecourt Arrangements: Following the terrorist attack at Glasgow Airport, Edinburgh Airport is reviewing the medium to long term changes that may be required in regards to the layout and operation of its forecourt for both public transport and private vehicles.

NOISE COMPLAINT ANALYSIS:

Actual Noise Monitoring: In direct response from 3 residents Edinburgh Airport has commissioned consultants to conduct a period of actual noise measurement at Lennymuir. Monitoring was carried out in September and a report is expected shortly.

General Update: For the 3 month period to September, Edinburgh Airport received 58 complaints relating to aircraft noise from 46 different individuals. 14 complaints were made as a direct result of the use of the crosswind runway during the Autumn closure of the main runway for maintenance.

PASSENGER SERVICES:

Route Development: 30 new international services have commenced this year and most are doing very well. It was recently announced that the Scottish Government's Route Development Fund is to be wound up and there will be no money for new routes. The BAA Route Development Fund will continue to operate. It is hoped that money for new routes could be obtained through Visit Scotland .

CUSTOMER COMPLAINTS ANALYSIS: During the period 124 complaints and 3rd party complaints were received whilst 39 compliments were forthcoming. A large number of the complaints related to baggage waiting times and other handling agent related issues.

Cllr Neil Rankin requested that information regarding accidents and incidents at the airport and its environs be included in future Managing Directors Reports.

AOCB:

Passengers with reduced mobility: From 26th July 2008 the responsibility for the provision of special assistance to this category of passenger will lie with the airport operator and not the airline as is currently the case. Edinburgh Airport has commenced the tendering procedure to select a company to operate the service. It is hoped that the contract will be awarded by 30th November following upon which the employing and training of staff will commence. It is intended that the contract will go

live by 1st April 2008. The airport will manage the cost of the service which will be paid for by the airlines based on the numbers of passengers they carry.

Travelator in SE Pier: It was advised that it was not possible to have this piece of equipment operate in alternate directions.

Consumers Association Representation: Margo MacDonald MSP advised that due to pressure of work she had requested the Consumers Association to nominate a replacement for her. She advised that she had enjoyed her time on the Committee and the Chairman thanked her for her contribution and wished her well for the future.

Dates of meetings in 2008: The Secretary advised that the meetings in 2008 will be held on 18th February, 12th May, 11th August and 17th November.