

**EDINBURGH AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE:**

**MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY SIXTH MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 IN THE MARRIOTT HOTEL, GLASGOW ROAD, EDINBURGH.**

**PRESENT:** Robert Carr (Chair)  
Tom Wright (Secretary)  
Gordon Dewar Chief Executive EAL  
Gordon Robertson Communications Director EAL  
Bryan Gall Passenger Interests  
Inspector Roderick Bainton Police Service of Scotland  
Donald Spencer The Consumers Association  
Lindsay Cole Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board  
Julian Slatter ABTA  
Adam Cumming Edinburgh Airport Amenities Group  
Kate Watt Ratho & District Community Council  
Dr Stefan Slater Cramond Community Council  
Alexis Haramis Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce  
Alan Mitchell Fife Chamber of Commerce  
Dr Sally Witcher Passenger Assist/PRM Service Users Representative  
Cllr Dave Dempster Fife Council  
Cllr Kevin Lang City of Edinburgh Council  
Cllr Russell Imrie Midlothian Council  
Cllr Carol Hamilton Scottish Borders Council  
Cllr Colin Davidson Sestrans

**IN ATTENDANCE:** David Cooper, Service Manager, Economic Development PLACE Directorate  
City of Edinburgh Council

**APLOLOGIES:** Andrew Mather Cramond Community Council  
Ken McNab Travel Consultant  
Joe Henderson Kirkliston Community Council  
Sandy Smart STUC  
Cllr Andrew McGuire West Lothian Council

**WELCOME:** The Chair welcomed those present. He advised that this would be Inspector Roderick Bainton's last meeting of the Committee as he was retiring from the Police Service of Scotland. He thanked Roderick for his services to the Committee and wished him every success for the future.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> AUGUST:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018 were approved.

**MATTERS ARISING:** There were no matters arising.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT:**

## **Traffic Figures:**

**Passenger Figures:** During the Quarter to the end of September 4,341,241 passengers passed through the airport an increase of 5.7% over the corresponding figures in 2017. International Traffic was up by 7.2% and Domestic Traffic by 2.7%.

Commenting on these figures Gordon Dewar advised that whilst he expected to see passengers numbers reaching 14m during 2018 there was a lot of uncertainty amongst the airlines due to fuel costs and BREXIT where everyone was waiting to see what would happen. EAL is achieving double the growth being seen in other UK airports. The passenger growth figures are ahead of forecasts as outlined in the Masterplan.

With regard to BREXIT a No Deal will cause significant problems with the possible end of Right to Fly and Open Fly. Several airlines have planned ahead by having both licences in the UK and Europe. Some 30 bilateral agreements with the EU will have to be renegotiated and there could be difficulties with access to the USA. A number of potential airline passengers are delaying booking their flights prior to April 2019. The UK Border Agency are already recruiting more staff but a No Deal could have severe implications for passengers entering the UK. Cllr Davidson advised that the arrival experience at EAL was awful and created a very bad impression on EAL and Scotland.

**Aircraft Movements:** There had been 37,039 movements during the period an increase of 0.9% over last year. The declining trend continues on Domestic movements. Flybe have reduced their movements whilst flying larger aircraft and BA has reduced its Heathrow service from 10 to 9 per day whilst using larger aircraft.

**Passenger Traffic Mix:** 97.7% was scheduled , 2.2% charter and 0.1% other.

**Cargo:** The total freight carried during the quarter was 10,710,12 kgs. It is hoped to increase these figures by carrying more freight on wide bodied aircraft.

**Day v Night:** During the quarter there were 37,039 flights of which 33,051 were day, 1494 were night and 2494 were evening. Comment was made regarding a 21.1% increase in night flights.

Whilst it was expected that this was over the busy Summer period such an increase was a cause for concern. There had been a large uplift in late arrivals caused by problems and delays in Europe. EAL are reviewing the fines procedures for airlines and are looking at a different price structure for flights which arrive after midnight.

## **CAPITAL INVESTMENT:**

### **Projects under Construction:**

**Baggage Futures Programme:** This programme has been almost 2 years in development and will see the complete replacement of the baggage handling equipment. These works will continue until 2021.

**Stands Development Phase 2:** This development will deliver 9 new stands for Easter 2019.

### **Projects being developed:**

**Security Futures:** Early work is underway to develop plans for the provision of new security capacity in line with forecast growth projections. In recent weeks works have been undertaken to upgrade the passenger body scanners.

**Extension to South East Pier:** In order to ensure that adequate gate and passenger lounge facilities increase in line with the planned increase in stand provision work has begun to support the provision of new terminal facilities in line with the 2040 Masterplan.

**Surface Access Improvements:** A wider review of the existing surface access strategy aimed at supporting capital investment in 2019/2020 to align with forecast passenger demand is under way.

## **Projects Recently Completed:**

**Terminal Extension (TEX):**All works on the terminal extension are now complete.

Gordon Dewar advised that when the airport was under BAA management the annual Capital spend was £12m. EAL intend to spend £75m on Capital investment each year. They are confident that

building early is not a risk.

### **COMMUNITY INVESTMENT:**

Community Board: The budget for 2018 is £134,000. During Quarter 3 £42,851,23 was awarded to 20 different organisations. It is not intended to increase the monies available following upon the doubling of the Drop Off Charge. The funds available are based on passenger numbers.

300 visitors were welcomed to a two day pop up visitor centre. EAL are considering opening up a visitor centre which will include an educational facility and where parents can take their children to watch the planes.

### **SURFACE ACCESS STRATEGY:**

Surface Access Target: The target is 35% of passengers using public transport by 2020. The mode share for Quarter 3 was 31.5% compared to 30% in the corresponding period in 2017.

Bus: Two new bus routes have commenced, the 909 to Stirling and the M20 to Newcastle. The 21A has changed to the 600 service and is a dedicated service to Livingston.

Taxis: Taxi rank departures were down year on year and last rolling 12 months.

Drop Off Charges: EAL had announced a doubling of the charge to £2 from 8<sup>th</sup> November. This was to provide funds for the new access road and also to reduce the number of cars using the facility and thus reducing the traffic congestion around the airport. There was general concern expressed by members that neither the Committee or any other Stakeholders had been consulted or advised prior to the announcement in the press. Gordon Robertson advised that Blue Badge holders have free access and that the Badge goes with the person not the car. He also reminded the Committee that there is a free drop off facility available.

Whilst it was advised that the decision to increase was sound environmental policy members made the point that public transport is not an option for large numbers of passengers using the airport. For some it would involve changing buses in the city centre and for a family with luggage this is not feasible.

### **AIRCRAFT NOISE:**

Noise Complaints: During the quarter 457 complaints had been received from 377 complainants. Complaints were down by 21.3% on the previous quarter whilst the number of complainants had increased by 123.1%. The highest number of complaints, 111, were from Dunfermline of which 105 were from the one complainant. Of the 70 complaints from Livingston 51 were made by one individual and 10 by another.

The highest number of complaints were for night time operations.

Noise Commentary: Three mobile noise monitors were commissioned and purchased and a programme of noise monitoring has been carried out at 11 properties under the 06 flight paths.

Volunteers are currently being sought in the West Lothian area.

Lindsay Cole advised that following the CAA's letter to EAL regarding Air Space Change that it was important that there was stronger involvement between the airport and the Noise Board.

It was advised that noise was not just a nuisance and an annoyance but that it affected people's health with the loss of sleep at night being particularly disturbing. The health aspect is being looked at by the Noise Board.

The Chair advised that our main subject for discussion at our next meeting should be Air Space Modernisation with Noise being the main topic at the May meeting.

### **ROUTE DEVELOPMENT:**

23 new services have commenced or will commence during 2018 whilst 6 will cease. The majority of the latter was due to the non reduction in APD. The airlines had been given a commitment by the Scottish Parliament and had started new routes. They were very unhappy that the commitment had not been met.

### **PASSENGER SATISFACTION ANALYSIS:**

**Passenger Satisfaction:** The target for passenger satisfaction is 4.25%. During the quarter the airport received 937 complaints an increase of 22% on the previous quarter but 17% down on the corresponding quarter in 2017. 87 compliments were received an increase of 7% on the previous quarter but 22% down on same quarter in 2017. In terms of passenger feedback the Special Needs and Additional Needs Service was again the highest area of compliment at 37%. Airline /handling agents 36%, Security 20% and Terminal were the top three areas of complaint.

**AIR SPACE CHANGE:** The CAA had written to EAL advising that they were minded to reject their application after it had been called in by the Minister of State. There had been no technical issues. The issue was a disagreement over the threshold as to which EAL should have reconsulted in certain areas in the light of their 2024 forecasts. EAL will now have to re apply under CAP 616. They will have to ascertain which credit they will get from the first application. They will fully consult with the Noise Board on the issue of noise impact and will reconstitute the Stakeholders Reference Group. The rejection will result in a delay of at least one year during which there will be delays in aircraft taking off in the morning peak.

**APPOINTMENT OF NEW SECRETARY:** The Chair advised that the procedure used in the appointment of the Chair will be carried out again. Candidates will be interviewed by the Chair, the Secretary and a Committee member. He asked any member who might wish to be considered to contact him. He also asked any Committee member who would be interested in the post to let him know.

### **PRESENTATION ON SURFACE ACCESS BY DAVID COOPER , SERVICE MANAGER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLACE DIRECTORATE, CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL.**

David covered the various plans which would involve development. They included the Strategic Development Plan and the Edinburgh Local Development Plan. A transport appraisal has been carried out in conjunction with the West Edinburgh Transport Appraisal Refresh. The infrastructure requirements involve a Link Road from the Gogar Roundabout with a spur to the airport. Eastfield Road will be dualled and improvements made to the Dumbbells. A reduction in the City Region Deal funding to £108m had resulted in monies available to the West Edinburgh Development Fund being £20m rather than the £50m previously indicated. The City of Edinburgh Council plan to make a further contribution. It needs someone to make the first move and EAL have indicated that they are prepared to pre fund but details would have to be worked out how 3<sup>rd</sup> party funding could come back to them.

Andrew Mather had presented his own plans for the new road into the airport which would involve the use of Turnhouse Road. However Cllr Kevin Lang advised that there are plans to develop the area for housing. It was agreed that it would be useful for Andrew to meet David.

It was the general view of the Committee that matters regarding a new road should proceed as soon as possible as the situation regarding Eastfield Road is unacceptable and likely to deteriorate as passenger numbers at the airport continue to grow. Any accident on the road could have catastrophic consequences for operations at the airport.

**AOCB:** The Secretary announced that the dates of the meetings in 2019 were 11<sup>th</sup> February, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 12<sup>th</sup> August and 11<sup>th</sup> November.