

ROBIN HOOD AIRPORT DONCASTER SHEFFIELD CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

11 OCTOBER 2007

PRESENT: Alan Tolhurst (Chairman)
Cllr Sheila Place (Nottinghamshire CC), Cllr Norma McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), Tony Storey OBE (Head Teacher, Hayfield School), Sandra Withington (Bassetlaw District Council), Cllr Pat Bartlett (DMBC) (Chair Noise Monitoring Sub-Committee), Richard Smith (Directions Finningley), Philip Cole (Office of Caroline Flint MP), Cllr Barbara Hoyle (DMBC), Cllr Chris Rosling-Joseph (Sheffield CC), Neville Dearden (Doncaster Chamber), Tony Newson (Renaissance South Yorkshire), Cllr Keith Isard (Bassetlaw District Council), Jim Bamford (Nottinghamshire CC), James Newman (Cutlers Company in Hallamshire), Andrew Bosmans (FODSA), Robert Cooke and Clare Wilson (RHADS), Martin McCarthy (SYJS).

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mick Jameson (DMBC), Cllr Graham Kyte (BMBC), Cllr Chris Underwood-Frost (Lincolnshire CC), Cllr Yvonne Woodcock (DMBC and Chair of the Community Sub-Committee), David Ryall (Managing Director, Robin Hood Airport), Peter Nears (Peel Holdings).

1 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman welcomed to his first meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee, James Newman of the Cutlers Company in Hallamshire. Members recalled the Consultative Committee had been seeking to strengthen its working relationship with the business community in Sheffield and looked forward to working with James in the future.

The Chairman thanked Richard Smith, Managing Director, Directions Finningley, for agreeing to host this meeting of the Committee and for providing a tour of the facilities.

2 **TOUR OF THE AVIATION ACADEMY**

Members of the Robin Hood Airport Consultative Committee were given a tour of the Directions Finningley Aviation Academy and asked questions on various aspects regarding development.

Members thanked Richard Smith for providing the tour and wished the Academy every success in the future.

3 **MINUTES**

- (i) **Section 40 – Airport Act** – It was confirmed that whilst security remained high on all airport operators agendas, it was likely to be over the coming year before policies in respect of a policing presence at all airports would be confirmed.

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The Committee were informed that following the ram-raid incident at Glasgow Airport, concrete blocks had been situated around the entrances to the Robin Hood Airport Terminal.

- (ii) Community Newsletters – Clare Wilson reported that she was now providing articles for a number of community newsletters, particularly those in closest proximity to the Airport. Further efforts were being made to extend this arrangement and Clare asked anyone in receipt of one of the articles to please provide feedback in order that the service could be improved on further. Clare agreed to provide details of which community newspapers she was engaging with.

4 AIRPORT OPERATOR'S REPORT

Please refer to report appended to these minutes.

The Committee discussed the latest position with regard to the FARRRS link road to the Airport from Junction 3, M18.

Phil Cole assured the Committee that Caroline Flint MP was in consultation with ministerial colleagues at the Department for Transport. It was disappointing to note that the scheme had not yet received full Programme Entry under the planning process and as such it was likely that the scheme would not now be complete until at least 2012.

The Committee urged all parties engaged in the process to ensure that lobbying in support of the scheme remained a key focus in all strategic planning consultations over the coming months.

5 AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT 2007

The Committee considered a draft of the Airport Consultative Committee's Annual Report 2007, and made the following comments:-

- The Committee congratulated the Airport operator on another successful year's operation.
- The Committee highlighted the need to successfully resolve any outstanding barriers in respect of surface access issues, in particular FARRRS.
- The Committee were led to believe the Airport Master Plan would have been available for consultation by now.
- The Committee congratulated the Airport operator on the further development of its Sound Insulation Grant Scheme.
- The Committee look forward to the Airport's Track Keeping System becoming fully operational in the near future.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and a copy together with comments, be forwarded to Doncaster MBC in accordance with the Section 106 Planning Agreement.

6 ANNUAL NOISE REPORT – APRIL 2006-MARCH 2007

The Committee considered a draft copy of the Airport's Annual Noise Report, which had previously been considered by the Committee's Noise Monitoring Sub-Committee at its meeting the previous week.

RESOLVED – That the Committee receive the report.

7 AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

As part of the work involved in pulling together the Airport Master Plan, the ACC had been requested to comment on a draft copy of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping report that had been produced in support of the Master Plan. Following consultation with ACC members and responses received, the Chairman collated comments and responded on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee considered the response and those of other stakeholders involved in this process.

8 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Neville Dearden updated the Committee on the work of the Business Development Group since the last meeting of the ACC.

The Business Development Group continued to support cross-boundary activity and was working with Yorkshire South, the newly created Destination Management Partnership for South Yorkshire.

An indication of the cross-boundary collaboration generated by the BDWG was clear from the 651, mainly business people, who attended the successful Chamber sponsored welcome to Marshall Aerospace and launch of Directions Finningley on 5th September.

Following the success of the exchanges between the RHADS region and Katowice a year ago, BDWG had commenced work on business exchanges for 2008. Proposed destinations included further cities in Poland, Canada, and the USA. Exchanges with the counterparts had already commenced with encouraging results.

9 RENAISSANCE SOUTH YORKSHIRE – AIRPORT PROJECT PLAN

Tony Newson, Head of Business Development at Renaissance South Yorkshire, gave members a presentation on the latest position with regard to the Airport Project Plan.

The presentation focused in particular on future forecasts in respect of Airport growth and the activity that would take place in support of these forecasts. The Committee

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considered the work already ongoing and asked that they receive further updates as to developments.

The Committee thanked Tony for his presentation.

10 SUMMARY OF PRESS ARTICLES

The Committee considered a selection of media articles considering issues affecting the aviation industry at an international, national and regional level. Members in particular welcomed the month on month growth in passenger numbers at Robin Hood Airport.

11 NOISE MONITORING SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee noted the minutes of the meetings of the Noise Monitoring Sub-Committee held on 13 June 2007 and 27 September 2007.

12 COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee noted the minutes of the meetings of the ACC Community Sub-Committee held on 13 June 2007 and 27 September 2007.

13 HEALTH IMPACT GROUP

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Health Impact Group held on 8 March 2007.

14 PUBLIC TRANSPORT GROUP

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Public Transport Group held on 18 May 2007.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee would be it's Annual and Ordinary meeting and would take place during late January 2008.

A schedule of dates for the Airport Consultative Committee would be confirmed shortly.

Airport Operator's Report

Expansion of Airline Operations

The Airport currently serves 49 destinations in 24 countries.

Wizz Air has commenced operations to their second destination Gdansk which is proving successful. Both Gdansk and Katowice are now served 4 x weekly. Wizz Air have also confirmed a further two destinations to be served from February 2008, Poznan and Wroclaw will both be served twice weekly.

Ryanair have also replaced their Pisa service with a 3 x weekly service to Alicante, due to commence in November 2007. Pisa will cease operation on 26 October 2007.

Flyglobespan have almost finished their first season of operation to Toronto – Hamilton and have indicated that this will return for a second season in 2008.

Following the merger with Thomson to create TUI Travel, First Choice has taken allocation on charter flying routes from May 2008. Initially flying on five routes across the Med, this is another new brand to RHADS, and will see increased support from distribution (travel agents) that have previously not sold Thomson, so allegiance to RHADS has been limited.

Work continues to bring new airlines and new routes to the region. The recent Routes conference in Stockholm, was attended by Peel Airports and a number of relationships were made and renewed, which will hopefully result in further opportunities.

Cargo and Freight Development

The freight forwarding industry, brokers and associated freighter operators are increasingly choosing to take advantage of the freighter facilities provided by Robin Hood Doncaster Airport and their service partners Cargo Handling Centre (CHC) and Servisair.

CHC provide for full transit shed services including pallet build/break, x-ray / hand search and administration of all imports & exports while Servisair provide all airside equipment and experienced freighter handling personnel for off / on-loads.

Over the past 3 months the airport has attracted 26 freighter charters including DC10F, DC8F, A300F, L188 and AN124 aircraft. During this period a diversity of loads have been efficiently handled including pharmaceuticals, printed matter, horses, construction equipment, vehicles, automotive spares and stage equipment.

The total tonnage off / on-loaded exceeded 642,000 kilos on routes to / from Ireland, Switzerland, Iraq, USA, UAE, Guinea, Sri Lanka, Nigeria and Zambia.

Group Airfreight Development Manager Stuart Sinclair says “the UK’s newest airport is gradually building a sound reputation for reliability and cost efficient handling of all types of freight & aircraft and there is a real expectation that further numerous opportunities will come to fruition over the traditionally busy final quarter”.

Transport and Tourism

The Airport has seen a positive growth in passengers arriving by Public Transport in 2007. The first six months data from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) survey indicates 8% are now arriving by Public transport compared to 3% in 2006. The survey data has highlighted areas to the Airport where public transport information can be targeted to persuade a shift in mode to the Airport. At the recent Air Transport Forum (ATF) operators and the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTTE) found the information a valuable tool when planning future services. An employee travel survey was also undertaken throughout the summer by the Airport. The results have prompted the Airport to look at implementing a car sharing scheme and increasing cycling storage facilities at the Airport.

The Airport is encouraged with the positive news that the SYPTTE has issued a tender for direct bus services between the Airport and Sheffield. The SYPTTE are expecting tenders to be returned by the middle of October 2007 and to implement a service for April 2008, subject to funding.

A revised draft of the Airport Surface Access Strategy (ASAS) and Travel Plan is currently in circulation to ATF members for comment and will be issued once feedback has been received.

A new website aimed at attracting inbound tourism into the Robin Hood Airport Region has been designed and built by RHADS. The website will be a single portal for users at the other end of the route who want to find out more about what is on offer when they land into RHADS. Once all content is loaded to a satisfactory standard, the website will be translated into core country languages. Robinhoodairporttourism.com is to have a phased launch over the coming months. The website will also make life easier for airlines, which currently have to feature around ten different information websites in order to truly represent what is on offer in the Robin Hood Airport Region. From the very concept, RHADS involved key tourism agencies and accommodation suppliers in order to deliver the best product. RHADS is the first UK Airport to offer a website of this kind. The website build and ongoing costs were met by RHADS, with some translation support from Yorkshire South Tourism, DMBC & Bassetlaw District Council.

Inward Investment

There is already considerable activity on the airport site and estate, the following developments are already completed or in progress:

- Priority Sites, 100,000 sq ft small industrial units (2nd phase now commenced)

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- Business Homes 50,000 sq ft of small office units (complete)
- Evans Property Group 30,000 sq ft of small unit offices (plan to be on site early 2008)
- Burford Park 90,000 sq ft speculative workspace commitment to develop 30,000sq ft by end Dec 2008
- Wright Investments 10,000 sq ft on the 62 acre site (construction underway)
- Construction commenced on the Hotel (103 beds) completion late summer 2008
- Terms agreed to sell 1.5 acre site at entrance of Airport to Wright Investments for £1.030m for mixed use development.

Work is also under way on the Airport Access road, which links Hurst Lane and the Airport car park.

Agents event held on the 10th of September at RHADS to update on progress to date and strategy going forward with commercial interests.

Project Work

Work to upgrade the Airfield and Runway lighting has been completed and successfully achieved CAA approval. The new Radar has been fully flight trialled and performed better than expected – the entry into service has been delayed slightly awaiting resolution of a technical issue with displaying the data in the Radar room at Liverpool Airport. This requires some further software development that should be completed early in 2008. Until that time we will continue to use Radar service from the RAF. The installation of a Cat IIIb ILS on Runway 20 has been completed and the ILS is in service for Cat I approaches (further proving is required over the next few months before it can be approved by CAA for Cat IIIb use). The re-located Cat I ILS from Runway 20 is now serving Runway 02 and is undergoing final testing and commissioning work ahead of entry into service in November.

Following lengthy consultation and re-consultation with stakeholders, RHADS formal application for controlled airspace has been submitted to the CAA Directorate of Airspace Policy who will consider it in detail during November. RHADS may be required to undertake further work or answer specific questions ahead of a decision which is likely to be given sometime early in the New Year.

CAA Audit

During September RHADS received its 15 – monthly audit by the CAA Safety Regulation Group. The Aerodrome Inspectors spent 3 days on site carrying out a very thorough inspection of all aspects of the operation. The CAA team were very pleased overall with the standard of safety being delivered. A few minor improvements were suggested and these are being implemented by the operational teams over the coming months.

Airport Masterplan

Work remains ongoing to resolve a number of factors still to be worked through, including recently published 'Yorkshire and Humberside Spatial Strategy, Rail Station planning application and access road entry into FARRRS.

Community and Environment

In summary, noise complaints have seen an overall decline, with the exception of August 2007. A review of the Noise Sanctions Policy has taken place and agreed by Doncaster MBC. Earlier in the year the Airport reviewed and extended the Sound Insulation Grant Scheme to bring the total to 247 properties within the scheme. The Track Keeping System is working at the Airport but not operational for analysis or reporting. There are a number of feeds transmitting information into the system and it is a process of commissioning to ensure that they all work as specified. It is not uncommon for Airports to experience technical difficulties when installing tracking systems.

Pupils participating in the Business in Education Technology Challenge created some innovative and practical designs for recycling on board an aircraft. The Airport is participating again in 'Technology Challenge' setting GCSE students a graphics and marketing themed challenge. The Community Fund has funded a total of eight projects since its inception in 2006 totalling over £6000.

Passenger Milestones and Statistics

The airport has made a number of achievements and passed some significant milestones over the last few months, these include:

- September's Year-on-Year (07 vs. 06) passenger growth was 17.2%
- The Airport has welcomed over 2.4 million passengers since opening.
- In June the Airport announced that 1 million passengers have passed through the terminal in the rolling 12 month period (July 06 – June 07). That figure now stands at 1,067,940.
- In September, Ryanair welcomed its 300,000th passenger since it began operations.
- Wizz Air has flown over 62,000 passengers in and out of the Airport