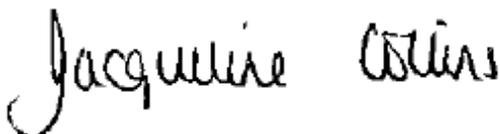


**You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the RMBC Transport Liaison Group
to be held on:-**

Date:- Wednesday, 25 March 2015 **Venue:- Town Hall, Moorgate Street,
ROTHERHAM. S60 2TH**
Time:- 2.00 p.m.

RMBC TRANSPORT LIAISON GROUP AGENDA

1. Appointment of Chairman for the meeting
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd December, 2014 (Pages 1 - 7)
4. Matters arising from the previous minutes (not covered by the agenda items)
5. Updates from the Transport Operators (Pages 8 - 17)
 - 1) First Group
 - 2) Stagecoach
 - 3) South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
 - 4) Rotherham Community Transport
 - 5) Northern Rail
 - 6) Robin Hood Airport - Consultative Committee meetings - minutes of the AGM on 15 January, 2015 (pages 8 to 12) and the ordinary meeting, also on 15 January 2015 (pages 13 to 17)
6. Updates from RMBC Transportation Unit
7. Pinch Point Schemes -Update - Pool Green and Old Flatts
8. Any other business



**Jacqueline Collins,
Director of Legal and Democratic Services.**

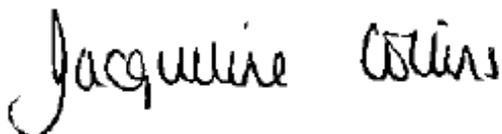
9. Date and time of the next meeting
- Wednesday, 24th June, 2015 at 2.00 p.m.

Transport Liaison Group membership:-

Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods & Combined Authority
Transport Committee Member - Councillor Godfrey (Chair)
Combined Authority Transport Committee Member, Councillor Foden
The Leader and the Deputy Leader

One Council Member from each Ward as follows:-

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Ward 1 – Burton | Ward 8 - Cutts | Ward 15 - Cowles |
| Ward 2 – Wootton | Ward 9 – Beaumont | Ward 16 - Sansome |
| Ward 3 – Ahmed | Ward 10 – Whelbourn | Ward 17 - Currie |
| Ward 4 – Finnie | Ward 11 – Swift | Ward 18 – Whysall |
| Ward 5 – Astbury | Ward 12 – Wallis | Ward 19 – Atkin |
| Ward 6 – Pitchley | Ward 13 – M. Vines | Ward 20 – Hoddinott |
| Ward 7 – J. Hamilton | Ward 14 – vacant | Ward 21 – Sharman |



**Jacqueline Collins,
Director of Legal and Democratic Services.**

RMBC TRANSPORT LIAISON GROUP
Wednesday, 3rd December, 2014

Present:- Councillor Godfrey (in the Chair); The Mayor (Councillor Foden); Councillors Astbury, Atkin, Burton, Cowles, Cutts, J. Hamilton, N. Hamilton, Swift, Whelbourn and Wootton.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ahmed, Beaumont, Hoddinott, Lakin, Sansome and Whysall.

10. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2014

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Transport Liaison Group, held on 24th September, 2014.

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

11. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a) With regard to Minute No. 7(1) – it was noted that there was still no viable option in terms of trying to improve the bus service link between Todwick and Dinnington and onwards as far as the Rotherham hospital and into Sheffield.

(b) With regard to Minute No. 7(3) – Members welcomed the return of the Stagecoach services 108 and 109 (Rawmarsh) to the routes which had operated during 2012.

12. NORTHERN RAIL

Further to Minute No. 7(7) of the meeting of the RMBC Transport Liaison group held on 24th September, 2014, Members welcomed Mr. John O'Grady (Client and Stakeholder Manager of Northern Rail) who gave a presentation about the Northern Rail railway franchise.

The presentation highlighted the following salient matters:-

: the Northern Rail company is ten years old;

: Northern Rail operates rail services in the North of England by means of a 10 years' franchise awarded by the Department for Transport (the current franchise expires in February 2016); previously, there had been a direct award to Northern Rail of an extension of an additional two years to the original franchise period;

: Northern Rail is the largest provider of passenger rail services in England (93 million passengers per year, with the pattern of travel being

mainly short commuter journeys); train service performance is at 96% reliability;

: the franchise arrangement from Department for Transport does not allow rail companies to make capital investment for growth of their business, although some investment is permitted, often using funding provided by Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs);

: the bidding process for the new franchise, beyond February 2016, will begin soon, although there may ultimately be some alterations to that process, depending upon the outcome of the General Election in May 2015;

: Northern Rail operates 450 railway stations throughout the North of England and, currently, there is a process of installing the new Customer Information Screens at the vast majority of stations;

: the company is placing much more emphasis upon customer service and, earlier in 2014, appointed its first Director of Customer Services;

: the company has embraced modern methods of ticket sales : increased use of Internet sales; the expensive installation of ticket vending machines at railway stations (a vending machine will be installed at the Rotherham Central station in February 2016);

: the offer of reduced fares for off-peak travel is not universally popular; however, the Department for Transport had insisted upon their availability as part of the conditions of the railway franchise;

: Northern Rail actively co-operates with community rail partnerships (eg: the 'Friends of Penistone Line');

: all assets on the railway lines are owned by and are the responsibility of Network Rail (not by the Northern Rail company);

: revenue protection is important to the Company; previously, it was estimated that some 10% of passengers would attempt to travel and avoid paying for a ticket; however, Northern Rail had engaged a sub-contractor to resolve this issue and a more recent estimate is that only some 5.3% of passengers manage to avoid paying the fares for travelling;

: sustainability – Northern Rail has environment-friendly policies (eg: use of recycled water for washing trains and carriages; installation of LED lighting at railway stations);

: Northern Rail provides enhanced train services for specific events (eg: for journeys to the Christmas Market at Lincoln and for spectators watching the Tour de France bicycle race in Yorkshire in July 2014);

: the professionalism of the service is being improved; eg: staff training

and improved focus on customer requirements; improved communications with passengers; conductors enabled to speed up the ticket checking process by the use of smartphones;

: nationally, surveys of rail passengers take place each year in the Spring and Autumn; however, the sample group of 1,200 passengers is considered to be too small; therefore, Northern Rail undertakes its own customer satisfaction surveys, involving 5,000 passengers every quarter; feedback usually refers to the punctuality of trains and passenger experiences of services and waiting times within railway stations;

: passenger satisfaction levels have risen markedly during the past 18 months;

: Northern Rail will make increasing use of social media for communications with the travelling public; much negative feedback from passengers will be quickly published on social media, for example, whenever a train is delayed or cancelled;

: Northern Rail works with the various Passenger Transport Executives in the region to plan the delivery of priorities for the travelling public (eg: improvements to the whole railway station environment);

: important issues in the next six months are : increasing the availability of electrified trains (and some diesel vehicles); responding to the outcome of the recent survey of passengers.

The questions from Members and the subsequent discussion included the following issues:-

- passengers prefer to purchase tickets either via the Internet, or at ticket offices at railway stations; a significant amount of money is still collected from passengers who pay the conductor on the train; this latter proportion of passengers is reducing, although locally in South Yorkshire, paying fares on the train is still a very popular method amongst rail passengers;

- there is a capacity problem on some trains and often there are more passengers than seats on trains (eg: the East Coast mainline); the manufacture of diesel trains no longer occurs in the United Kingdom, nor in many parts of Europe; the Government does not allow any significant investment in services; it is unfortunate that passengers often have to stand when travelling on trains; the railway industry views the HS2 high speed rail project as a necessity;

: some manufacture of trains happens in County Durham (eg: Hitachi Rail Europe);

: the imminent electrification of the railway lines between Liverpool and Manchester (and the use of electrified trains there) will enable better quality, but not new diesel vehicles to be transferred for use elsewhere in

the North of England;

: it is the intention that the aged and shoddy-in-appearance Pacer trains should eventually be removed and replaced with new and/or newer vehicles;

: Northern Rail is a joint venture between the Serco Group plc, the international services company and Abellio, a subsidiary of NS Dutch Railways;

: although the subsidy which Northern Rail receives from central Government is one of the largest in England, in turn, Northern Rail transports the largest number of passengers;

: concerns were expressed about passenger safety on trains and at railway stations; the Government may specify, as part of the new franchise, that there are 'driver-only' trains; rail franchise companies ought to ensure that there are sufficient staff on railways, available to assist passengers at all hours;

: reference was made to the specific and personal assistance provided for visually impaired people who travel by train; it was imperative that such persons should register with the Company in order to benefit from this specific assistance;

: any restriction of the increase in fares would be the product of a decision by central Government;

: it is anticipated that the proposed expansion and improvement of the railway network, during the next decade, will be matched by increases in the number of people travelling by train;

: the integration of rail and bus services is a desirable objective, for the wider benefit of the travelling public; however, the commercial demands of bus and rail operators are acknowledged;

: desirable objectives for the local area are : direct rail links from Rotherham to London; improvements to the Holmes Chord railway line serving the Rotherham Central station.

Mr. O'Grady was thanked for his informative presentation.

13. UPDATES FROM THE TRANSPORT OPERATORS

(1) First Group – service punctuality continues to be affected by various road works, eg: Pool Green crossroads, Centenary Way, Rotherham and also in Hooton Roberts and in Maltby. There are likely to be further delays because of (i) the traffic congestion around Meadowhall during the pre-Christmas shopping period; and (ii) the increased amount of traffic on Centenary Way, Rotherham near to the new Tesco supermarket, which

affects access to and egress from the Transport Interchange. A further round of consultation will take place during 2015, as part of the Rotherham Voluntary Bus Partnership. A Councillor asked for further information about bus services 7, 8 and 22M and the Kimberworth route.

(2) Stagecoach – these services are also affected by the congestion near to the new supermarket at Centenary Way, Rotherham. In January 2015, minor alterations will be made to services 217 and 218, to improve reliability and punctuality. Similarly, the morning peak hours' journeys for services 220, 221 and 221 will be revised. Before the end of January, 2015, the new X20 service will be operating between Barnsley and Doncaster. Travelling across the Deane Valley, this hourly service will have limited stops and therefore achieve faster journey times overall.

(3) South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTTE) – reference was made to the changes to services affecting most areas of the Rotherham Borough. Passenger numbers, overall, have increased by 1½% during the past twelve months, a figure which represents a significant increase. The SYPTTE website contains the response to the recently-undertaken public consultation exercise, entitled “have your say,” which examined customer priorities in terms of passenger transport provision, the impact of future budget changes, etc. The consultation response will be used to inform the Transport Authority's budget deliberations in February 2015. Discussion took place on the impact of world-wide oil prices on the costs of bus services and the cost of passenger fares. It was acknowledged that there are many factors which affect bus operating costs and the amounts of passenger fares. There was a consensus for the view that larger passenger numbers, overall, would be a principal factor in helping to reduce the cost of fares. A Councillor asked for information about service 73 (serving Rotherham, Canklow, Brinsworth and Treeton) and whether it will be possible to provide increased passenger-carrying capacity during the pre-Christmas period.

(4) Rotherham Community Transport – Members noted that Stephen Hewitson had retired from the Community Transport Service during the Summer 2014 and his successor is Adrian Parkinson. This year is the 25th Anniversary of Rotherham Community Transport and the organisation has won the ‘project category’ award in the Voluntary Action Rotherham's eleventh annual community achievement award scheme. Community transport passenger numbers are increasing throughout South Yorkshire. The Rotherham organisation is working with Rotherfed (tenants' and residents' association) to provide accessible, safe and affordable transport (eg: for shopping excursions) for people who have difficulty using public transport. Staff training will be completed in January 2015, enabling Rotherham Community Transport to achieve accreditation from the Dementia Action Alliance. This is a county-wide scheme in which community transport vehicles will be eligible to display the dementia friendly logo and employees are trained to provide appropriate assistance to dementia sufferers. It was confirmed that the SYPTTE sometimes uses

the Community Transport services to supplement tendered bus services. Community transport services are now provided for the wider community, are not age-dependent and aim to serve people who may be socially and geographically isolated, as well as people who have mobility difficulties. Reference was made to the Department for Transport capital grants scheme for innovative small schemes. Small, not-for-profit groups which hold Section 19 (Transport Act 1985) permits will be eligible to apply for these grants and the Community Transport organisations in South Yorkshire are currently preparing a bid.

(5) Robin Hood Doncaster Sheffield Airport – consideration was given to the minutes of the most recent meeting of the Robin Hood Airport Consultative Committee, held on 16th October, 2014. The contents of these minutes were noted.

14. UPDATES FROM RMBC TRANSPORTATION UNIT

Members received details reported by the Traffic and Transportation Manager concerning the following highways improvement projects, both within the Rotherham Borough area and in the wider region:-

(A) M1 Junction 33 (and A630 Rotherway) – this highway improvement scheme is promoted by the Highways Agency and supported by this Council and by Sheffield City Council and has been very successful. The problem of traffic congestion and lengthy queues, on the approach to the Rotherway roundabout from Canklow, has recently improved because of the opening of a second lane within the A630 carriageway. Some re-phasing of the traffic signals at the Whiston crossroads (A631 West Bawtry Road), programmed to be implemented early in 2015, will assist in improving the vehicle capacity of that highway junction and should also reduce traffic queuing on the A618 Pleasley Road, Whiston.

(B) Pool Green roundabout (Centenary Way/Main Street/Masbrough Street, Rotherham) – the scheme to replace the roundabout with a signal-controlled, crossroads junction has reached its half-way stage, in terms of length of time and is expected to be completed on time in April/May 2015. Every endeavour is being made to minimise traffic disruption.

(C) A630 Centenary Way, Rotherham – there will be some re-phasing of the traffic signals at the junction of Centenary Way, Drummond Street, the Transport Interchange and the access road into the supermarket car park, because of the additional vehicular traffic generated by the recent opening of the new Tesco supermarket. A further road safety audit will be undertaken after completion of these works, by which time the supermarket will have been open for several weeks.

(D) 'Smart' Motorways project (M1 Junction 32 to Junction 35A) – the Highways Agency will begin work on this project in March 2015 and construction works are expected to last 18 months. There will be four lanes of the M1 motorway running at all times, from Junction 32 (the

M1/M18 intersection) as far as Junction 35A (leading to the Stocksbridge bypass). The original proposal for the 60 mph vehicle speed limit on this section of the M1 has been rejected by the Minister for Transport, although the possible use of variable speed limits is still under consideration. The scheme has to ensure that the air quality in this area must not be made worse, especially that affecting the Air Quality Management Area around Tinsley.

(E) Recent announcement (November 2014) by the coalition Government about proposals to improve the transportation links between the major cities in the North of England, which would be subject to the provision of Government funding – the announcement had highlighted a number of initial suggestions for Trans-Pennine highway improvements between Sheffield and Manchester, particularly affecting the A628 Woodhead Pass:-

: A new road to bypass Mottram Moor – an initial prediction that this scheme might be completed as early as 2022 might be considered to be optimistic, as any public inquiry would necessarily cause delays;

: provision of crawler lanes along the A628; eg: eastbound in the direction of Barnsley and Sheffield;

: the construction of an additional, short section of dual carriageway along the A61 at Tankersley (between the Westwood roundabout and M1 Junction 36);

: a feasibility study of the possible construction of a tunnel across the Pennines; this tunnel, if constructed, may become the longest road tunnel in Europe and will be an extremely expensive project.

(F) Tram-Train Rapid Transit scheme (linking Sheffield, Rotherham and Parkgate) - modifications required to the Rotherham Central railway station will include height alterations at the College Road bridge. This scheme may begin during late 2015 and will occur after completion of the Centenary Way/Main Street/Masbrough Street (Pool Green) junction improvement. However, the bridge alterations may require the temporary closure of College Road to facilitate the works.

15. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- (1) That the next meeting of the RMBC Transport Liaison Group be held at the Town Hall, Rotherham on Wednesday, 18th March, 2015, commencing at 2.00 p.m.

(2) That future meetings of the RMBC Transport Liaison Group take place on:- Wednesday 24th June, 2015 and a Wednesday during September, 2015.



ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD

AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

15 JANUARY 2015

PRESENT: Alan Tolhurst OBE (Chair)
 Councillor B Barker (Bassetlaw District Council), A Bosmans (FODSA), P Cole (Office of Caroline Flint MP), L Daffern (Robin Hood Airport), S Dishman (Doncaster Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise), S Gill (Robin Hood Airport), Parish Councillor N McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), Councillor H McNamee (Doncaster MBC), K Naylor (Robin Hood Airport), P Nears (Peel Holdings (Management Ltd)), Councillor P J O'Connor (Lincolnshire County Council), County Councillor C Pearson (North Yorkshire County Council), M Di Salvatore (West Lindsey District Council), A Shirt (Committee Secretary), A Storey OBE (Ex-Officio) and Parish Councillor J Worthington (Cantley with Branton Parish Council)

Apologies were received from: J Bamford, Councillor L Bramall, Councillor R Franklin, Mayor R Jones, Councillor P Schofield, Councillor P Skelding and Councillor Y D Woodcock

1 **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chair welcomed Members to the ninth Annual General Meeting of Robin Hood Airport Doncaster Sheffield Consultative Committee.

An extended welcomed went to Peter Nears, Strategic Planning Director at Peel Holdings (Management) Ltd.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2014**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16 January 2014 be agreed as a correct record.

3 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chair informed the meeting that when considering the contents of his report on 2014, he thought that he would be commenting merely on a year of consolidation, rather as he had done so last year at 2013.

However, upon further reflection about the activity which had taken place during 2014, the Chair had realised that there were plenty of positives to reflect upon. There had been many developments, instead of being isolated events, which were beginning to hang together and set the Airport for a bright future. Furthermore, the Chair added

that it was a brave and significant move on the part of Peel to take back control of the Airport in 2013.

There had been some important and interesting developments during 2014, nationally and locally which the Chair wished to report upon:-

Airports Commission

In 2014, the outcome of the Airports Commission on the developments in the South East of the country became that bit closer and the final options were now appearing.

Future of Smaller Airports

The Commons Transport Select Committee had started to take a keen interest in the use of smaller Airports, and RHADS, along with others, had responded to the Committee's inquiry document. The Chair commented that this was a good sign, as politically, the strategic importance of smaller Airports was at last, being recognised and that the Airports' collective longer term sustainability is crucial to the UK economy.

Managing Noise

In May 2014, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) had published a series of recommendations to help drive improvements in the way aviation manages aircraft noise, which the Authority was now discussing with the industry. One interesting recommendation included the potential for tax breaks for local people and businesses, as well as the potential for a future noise tax to incentivise airlines to procure and operate fleets in the most efficient fashion possible.

Air Passenger Duty (APD)

The unwelcome APD remained in place in 2014, and over 30 aviation, tourism and business groups joined together to press for the abolition of the tax. So far, progress had been limited and there was an increase charged from April.

The Chair commented that on a positive side, the announcement that APD on children's flights would be abolished was most welcome.

Department for Transport (DfT) Guidelines for Airport Consultative Committees

Following a consultation, the DfT had issued a new set of guidelines for the conduct of Airport Consultative Committees. The RHADS ACC welcomed the proposals and agreed to review the RHADS Constitution accordingly. This has been carried out, and a revised version of the Constitution had been included as an item in the agenda for approval.

Local Developments

During the year, a number of important local developments started to come together.

There were signs that progress on the FARRRS link road was having an impact on airlines' thinking about the potential of the Airport. And on a recent visit, airline

representatives were flown over the development to see the progress; the reactions from the representatives were very positive.

Another very positive news story was published in late 2014 regarding the £10million development of the **Doncaster International Business Park**. The proposed design for 'Eco Pods' had been received with acclaim; and fitted well within the local environmental vision for the area.

Support from the **business community** increased during the year with the Sheffield City Region's Chairman expressing full support for Peel's vision for the Airport. An 'Advocacy Event' had been held to secure the support of local businesses; which had been well attended and many of these had agreed to become Advocates for the Airport.

Business leaders had seen the impact that RHADS could have on future trade, and with the introduction by airlines of more efficient aircraft, it was surely not beyond the realm of a possibility that RHADS will develop into a critical international point to point base.

During the year, the ACC saw some of the results of Steve Gill's and Chris Harcombe's hard work in marketing the Airport, which had resulted in increased flights to Riga, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, Bucharest and other important destinations.

Overall, there was growth in **passenger numbers** and the outlook was good with around 10% growth forecast for the year ahead.

On the question of route development, the Airport had responded to a DfT consultation on how the Government should assess the need for start-up route development support for Airports with fewer than 5 million passengers a year.

Last year, the ACC had been pleased to note that, while passenger numbers were steady, **cargo traffic** had increased by 8% during 2013. In 2014, cargo activities continued to increase with 112% growth, with evidence of further opportunities in 2015. The Chair commented that this was a good news story and was very much in keeping with the Airport Director's vision in making the Airport a Centre of Logistics Excellence.

In December 2014, under Lorraine Daffern's leadership, the Airport achieved a **Doncaster Chamber Award** for its success in customer relations; and this was on top of being voted No 1 Airport again by the Which? Magazine.

From a **tourism** perspective, the Committee was involved in meetings between the Airport and representatives of the Pilgrim Fathers Origins Association, who were in the early planning stages of events which will culminate, (it is hoped) in a major event in 2020.

Similarly, contacts had been made with authorities in Lincoln who are leading the planning for this year's celebration of the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta.

These events will have an impact on the marketing of the Airport.

The news that the **Vulcan to the Sky Trust (VTST)** is firming up its plans for the development of an Engineering Centre at the Airport was most welcome, and a briefing on the vision will be given on Friday 13 February, at 2pm in Hangar 3 at the Airport.

This news, coupled with the announcement about the new **Rail Academy** Project in Doncaster served to add to the good news story about the region.

Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee

The Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee continues to monitor the implementation of the Quiet Operations Policy. The number of complaints about aircraft noise during the year was limited, with just a few complainants' comments making up the bulk of the totals.

Members were reminded that each complaint is recorded and responded to by Kellie Naylor, whose arrival as the new Environmental and Communities Officer was welcomed during the year.

The Chair rounded-up his Annual Report by taking the opportunity to thank the Airport Director and his colleagues for the positive and constructive manner in which the relationship between the Committee and the Airport is conducted.

Thanks were also given to Andrew Shirt for his excellent support to the Chair personally, and to the Committee.

The Chair extended his sincere thanks to the Committee Members for their commitment and support.

2014 had been a good year with much to celebrate and the signs were there for an excellent year in 2015.

RESOLVED – That the Chairman's Annual Report be noted.

4 ROBIN HOOD AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE: UPDATED CONSTITUTION

The Chair reminded Members that back in April 2014; the Department for Transport (DfT) had issued revised guidelines for Airport Consultative Committees.

It had been agreed that the RHADS ACC's original Constitution should be updated to reflect the new guidance.

The updated version of the Constitution was presented for Members' approval.

RESOLVED – That the Committee agrees to adopt the updated Constitution presented at today's meeting.

5 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A report of the Secretary was presented setting out the current membership of the Airport Consultative Committee and the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED – That the Committee notes the current membership of the Airport Consultative Committee and Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee.

6 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2015

RESOLVED – That the following schedule of meetings be agreed:-

Airport Consultative Committee

Thursday 15 January (AGM and Ordinary)
Thursday 16 April
Thursday 16 July
Thursday 15 October

Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee

Thursday 19 March
Thursday 11 June
Thursday 17 September
Thursday 3 December

All meetings will commence at 10.00 am, in the Blenheim meeting room in Heyford House, Robin Hood Airport, unless stated otherwise.

CHAIR



ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT

AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

ORDINARY MEETING

15 JANUARY 2015

PRESENT: Alan Tolhurst OBE (Chair)
Councillor B Barker (Bassetlaw District Council), A Bosmans (FODSA), P Cole (Office of Caroline Flint MP), L Daffern (Robin Hood Airport), S Dishman (Doncaster Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise), S Gill (Robin Hood Airport), Parish Councillor N McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), Councillor H McNamee (Doncaster MBC), K Naylor (Robin Hood Airport), P Nears (Peel Holdings (Management Ltd)), Councillor P J O'Connor (Lincolnshire County Council), County Councillor C Pearson (North Yorkshire County Council), M Di Salvatore (West Lindsey District Council), A Shirt (Committee Secretary), A Storey OBE (Ex-Officio) and Parish Councillor J Worthington (Cantley with Branton Parish Council)

Apologies were received from: J Bamford, Councillor L Bramall, Councillor R Franklin, Mayor R Jones, Councillor P Schofield, Councillor P Skelding and Councillor Y D Woodcock

1 **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chair welcomed Members to the Ordinary meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair informed the meeting that Robert Hough, Chairman of Peel Airports and a Non-Executive Director of the Peel Group, had been made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen's New Year's Honours List. It was noted that Robert had received the award in recognition of his services to business in the North West.

The Committee asked that their congratulations be passed onto Robert.

3 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2014**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Airport Consultative Committee held on 16 October 2014 be agreed as a correct record.

4 BUSINESS UPDATE FROM PEEL AIRPORTS LTD

The Committee received an update from Peter Nears, Strategic Planning Director at Peel Holdings (Management) Ltd regarding key policy issues for Robin Hood Airport.

The Committee was informed that in relation to the Airports Commission and increasing new capacity in the South East, a number of meetings had been attended to promote the interests of RHADS, either directly or through its membership of the Regional and Business Airports Group (RABA) as follows:

- i) Heathrow and Gatwick Airport: Meetings held by RABA respectively, where discussions focused upon the commitments they could provide to regional stakeholders regarding access to the newly created capacity in the South East.
- ii) Airports Commission: A meeting was held by RABA with the Airports Commission. Much of the discussion revolved around the ability for access to be secured for regional airports to the new capacity.
- iii) Peter Nears had attended and gave evidence in the autumn to the All Party Regional Aviation Group at the House of Commons regarding the impact of regional aviation on local economies in the regions, including Sheffield City Region. It was anticipated that their report would be published shortly.
- iv) Heathrow had established a National Connectivity Task Force to consider regional connectivity issues. The Task Force had recently conducted a web based survey to gather evidence of the importance of connectivity to regional economies. (The Deputy CEO of Doncaster Chamber represents Yorkshire and the North East on this).
- v) The RABA would be attending the Transport Select Committee at their hearing on 19 January 2015 in respect of their inquiry into Smaller Regional Airports.

The Committee was informed that the Government had recently announced a consultation exercise on the Appraisal Process for Start-up Aid for Airports with less than 3 million passengers per annum. Peel Airports Ltd had responded to the consultation with a number of points.

Peel had continued to put the case for Regional Airports to the ongoing debate promoted by the Chancellor regarding a more unified approach to major infrastructure in the North, including high speed rail (HS3).

Peel would be meeting with the Local Authority to discuss how a railway station scheme could be progressed to ensure that funding/delivery opportunities could be captured.

The Airport had secured a reference in the One North Report: A Proposition for an Interconnected North, which identifies the Airport as: *'The international gateway to Sheffield City Region for passengers, and part of the logistics hub. Over £113m is currently being invested to improve surface connectivity which will increase passenger numbers, and hence heighten its strategic significance and GVA benefit to the North'*.

The report set out a strategic proposition for transport in the North. Led by the city regions of Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield, One North reflects the critical importance of transport for vibrant, sustainable economic growth across the North.

With regards to highways signage to the Airport, Peel had raised this with both Doncaster MBC and Sheffield City Council. There was a need for a comprehensive signage strategy, which directs passengers from Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire to the Airport and to co-ordinate with FARRRS, and to also highlight these as destinations for inward visitors.

Members were presented with a copy of the Airport's 'Vision for Growth Update' brochure which set out future aspirations for the Airport and the surrounding areas along with an update on the key projects and next steps. It was noted that the Airport Master Plan would be updated during 2015.

Parish Councillor McCarron asked if it could be confirmed if Peel had purchased the bungalow and farm on Gatehouse Lane at Blaxton.

P Nears informed the meeting that Peel had not purchased any land on this site and that discussions with the Vulcan Trust were currently taking place regarding a future site for the Vulcan Trust Academy.

Post meeting note - 2nd March 2015 – Gatehouse Lane Bungalow and Farm – Peel have now completed on the sale of the above properties. At the time of the ACC meeting, Peel had not completed on the potential purchase of the above properties.

The Committee thanked Peter for his comprehensive update.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

5 AIRPORT ACTIVITIES UPDATE REPORT

Steve Gill provided the Committee with an update regarding the commercial, marketing and operational issues at RHADS. In summary it was reported that:-

- At the end of March 2015, it was forecast that there would be 7% continued growth, with the number of passengers passing through the Airport at 750,000 for the financial year 2014/15. During the 2013/14 financial year, there had been 650,000 passengers passing through the Airport.

During the 2015/16 financial year the Airport was forecasting 12% growth, with passenger numbers growing to around 850,000.

- The FARRRS link road would become fully operational in early 2016, which would be transformational and a catalyst for growth at the Airport.

Members were reminded that the link road would provide a direct link from the M18 at junction 3 to the Airport. The link road would considerably reduce journey times and would result in a 79% increase in the population living within 30 minutes of the

Airport. The Airport's Managing Director asked Members to promote the link road to their contacts and further committees'.

- The Airport were forecasting the amount of cargo movements during the 2014/15 financial year to be around 1,000 tonnes. There had been a 100% increase in the amount of cargo operations during this financial year. It was forecast that there would be further growth in cargo movements during the 2015/16 financial year of a further 100%.
- An updated network map setting out the airlines operating from the Airport in the year ahead was now available.
- A new Robin Hood Airport website had recently been launched with new branding, promoting the excellent customer service on offer at the Airport.

A further new addition to the website was the ability for users to search and book holidays and flights via the 'Travel Shop' facility on the website.

- Newmarket Holidays were now offering packages to Italy from Robin Hood during 2015. Escorted tours included the 'Seven Cities of Italy', 'Lake Garda' and the 'Italian Lakes', along with independent trips to Italy.
- Thomson and First Choice had announced that during winter 2015/16 there would be the introduction of a day trip to Lapland and an additional flight operating on a Monday to Tenerife from Robin Hood Airport.
- Following recent refurbishment of Hangar 1, 2Excel Aviation had now moved into Hangar 1 along with two of their B727 freighter aircrafts for cargo and oil spill response operations.
- The LinksAir service operating to the Isle of Man and Belfast City had been reasonably successful; however following problems with their fleet the operation had been temporarily suspended. It was anticipated that the services would be re-introduced shortly.
- The Airport were currently in discussion with the Vulcan to the Sky Trust regarding a suitable location on the Airport's site which could house the development of a Vulcan Aviation Academy and Heritage Centre.
- During 2015, Peel Airports had committed to invest heavily in marketing the Airport and routes. Members were also encouraged to also promote the Airport to their contacts.

RESOLVED – That the updated be noted.

6 NOISE MONITORING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE NEW MEMBER
INDUCTION BRIEF

The Chair presented the Committee with a draft Member Induction Briefing note, which would be given to new members joining the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED – That the Committee agrees the Member Induction Briefing note for new members joining the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee.

7 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE NOISE MONITORING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-
COMMITTEE HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2014

RESOLVED – That the draft minutes of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee held on 4 December 2014 be noted.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Lorraine Daffern wished to thank Friends of Doncaster Sheffield Airport (FoDSA) on behalf of all the Team onsite at Robin Hood Airport, for carrying out the role of volunteer Airport Ambassadors. The Ambassadors were thanked for providing a friendly welcome to everyone visiting the airport and for providing support and assistance to passengers flying in and out of the Airport.

Andrew Bosmans informed the meeting that the Ambassadors had enjoyed working with the Team at the Airport, and that from his own general observations; passengers really appreciated the service offered to them by the Ambassadors. Andrew added that he would feedback the thanks to FoDSA members.

9 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee be held on Thursday 16 April 2015 at 10:00 am, in Heyford House, Robin Hood Airport, Doncaster.

CHAIR