

## Consultative Committee

### DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

**19 OCTOBER 2017**

PRESENT: Alan Tolhurst OBE (Chair)  
A Bosmans (FODSA), M Cotterill (Peel Airports Management),  
Councillor S Cox (Doncaster MBC), Town Councillor A Cropley (Bawtry Town Council), Councillor M Greenhalgh (Doncaster MBC), Councillor D Lelliott (Rotherham MBC), Parish Councillor N McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), Councillor B Mordue (Doncaster MBC), K Naylor (Doncaster Sheffield Airport), County Councillor C Pearson (North Yorkshire County Council), Councillor D Pidwell (Bassetlaw DC), Councillor M Quigley MBE (Nottinghamshire County Council), M Di Salvatore (West Lindsey District Council), Councillor I Saunders (Sheffield City Council), A Shirt (Committee Secretary) and Parish Councillor J Worthington (Cantley with Branton Parish Council)

Guest: D Holgate (DCH Consulting Ltd)

Apologies were received from: Councillor M Cooper, D Fell, Councillor R Franklin, Councillor J Milne, Councillor C Perraton-Williams and Y D Woodcock

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

A Tolhurst welcomed everyone to the October meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee (ACC). An extended welcome went to Diane Holgate, Director of DCH Consulting Ltd. Members were informed that Diane would be observing the proceedings of today's meeting, noting that Yorkshire Wildlife Park were currently considering the establishment of a Consultation Committee to discuss Wildlife Park development.

Introductions were made and apologies for absence were noted as above.

#### 2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Tolhurst commented that several high profile events had occurred within the aviation industry since the July ACC meeting.

Firstly, news had emerged mid-September that Ryanair had cancelled up to 50 flights a day through to the end of October, affecting 315,000 passengers due to a pilot shortage. Further announcements had been made by the airline cancelling a further 18,000 flights between November and March, affecting travel plans of another 400,000 passengers.

Secondly, the announcement that Monarch Airlines had been placed into administration was very sad news for the aviation industry.

Furthermore, there had been news that some 4,000 jobs were under threat in Northern Ireland due to a trade dispute between Bombardier and Boeing because the US government had imposed tariffs on imports of Bombardier jets.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2017

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the ACC meeting held on 13 July 2017 be agreed as a correct record, subject to it being noted that Parish Councillor Jennifer Worthington had been present at July meeting.

4 MATTERS ARISING

i) Vision for Transformational Growth

Members were informed that the new Master Plan was currently being developed and would be published in approximately two months' time.

ii) Highway Signage to DSA

A Tolhurst reported that he had received a letter from the Rt Hon Caroline Flint MP on 11 October 2017, regarding highways signage to DSA.

The letter confirmed that the Committee's views had been considered by Mr Scott Cardwell, Assistant Director of Development at Doncaster MBC, noting that DMBC would be happy to work with Highways England should the opportunity of funding arise for sign changes.

It was noted that, if the Committee had any specific concerns regarding signage on Doncaster's local road network, Doncaster MBC would be happy to consider any specific concerns.

A copy of the letter was circulated for Members' information.

iii) Pilgrim Fathers

The following action remained outstanding from the July meeting:-

'Councillor Pidwell stated that he would re-establish contact with the lead person at Bassetlaw District Council in relation to Pilgrim Fathers'. **ACTION: Councillor Pidwell to pass contact details on to K Naylor.**

5 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

RESOLVED – That Members noted the following changes of membership on the Airport Consultative Committee:-

- Lincolnshire County Council had appointed Councillor Clio Lyndon Perraton-Williams (in place of Councillor Pat O'Connor).
- Nottinghamshire County Council had appointed Councillor Mike Quigley MBE (in place of Councillor Pam Skelding).

6 AIRPORT ACTIVITIES UPDATE REPORT

M Cotterill provided the Committee with an update on airport activities. In summary it was reported that:-

- Following the demise of Monarch Airlines, there was currently a short-term opportunity for the airport to attract passengers who had been affected by cancelled flights however, there was also a risk for the airport in the longer-term. Flybe had seen a rise in demand with forward sales up by 40% due to passengers switching to other airlines.
- The cancellation of Ryanair flights had also created a short to medium term opportunity for DSA with passengers who had booked flights from Leeds Bradford were now booking flights from other airports, including DSA.
- TUI would be adding two new routes to its summer 2018 schedule to Naples and Kefalonia.
- Flybe had reported that passenger numbers were up by 9%, in the April to September 2017 period, compared to the same period in 2016. Several changes to Flybe's schedule were planned for 2018.
- Wizz Air flights continued to be very popular with sales up by 11% year on year. Wizz Air would be discontinuing flights from Sofia to Birmingham, Bristol and DSA from 6 November 2017. Wizz Air had announced that they would be providing additional capacity on other flights in 2018.

Councillor Mordue asked what impact Brexit would have upon Wizz Air's operations from DSA.

M Cotterill provided Members with his own personal views what could potentially happen when the UK leaves the EU. At this stage it was still very difficult to know what the impact could be upon on the aviation industry.

- Freight continued to perform well; during the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 2017/18 financial year 3,500 tonnes of cargo had been transported, compared to 3,100 tonnes transported in 2016.
- DSA had secured its first scheduled cargo contract working in partnership with Network Airline Management bringing flowers and vegetables to the UK via a weekly MD11 aircraft service from Nairobi to DSA.
- DSA had secured funding from the Local Enterprise Partnership to create a much larger cargo shed and to make additional improvements around the airfield in order to handle larger planes and facilitate growth in cargo operations.
- The Meet and Greet Car Park continued to be very popular with passengers. The facility now included the option for customers to have their car washed onsite.

- DSA's Premium Lounge continued to be a very popular option for passengers with several days being completely booked-out. The Premium Lounge would be extended early next year to add an extra 20-30 covers.
- DSA had been named the best small airport in the UK by Which? magazine's members. DSA had been awarded the accolade in the category of airports with less than 10 million passengers.
- DSA had recently acquired the naming rights to the Sheffield Arena with it now being renamed as the 'FlyDSA Arena'. The initial three year deal will see the two organisations working in close partnership to promote not only the airport and the venue, but also the wider Sheffield region.
- Passenger numbers continued to grow; from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 786,000 had travelled from DSA, compared to ???? who had passed through the airport from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

## 7 AIRSPACE CHANGE PROPOSALS

A Tolhurst informed Members that the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee had recently received a number of presentations on proposed changes to DSA's surrounding airspace.

A public consultation on proposed changes to the airspace around DSA had been launched on 25<sup>th</sup> September, which outlined potential changes to the routes that aircraft depart and arrive into the airport.

Members were invited to share their views and respond formally to the consultation, noting that the consultation would run until 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

Further details including the full consultation document could be found on the DSA website at [www.flydsa.co.uk/about-us/dsaconsultation/](http://www.flydsa.co.uk/about-us/dsaconsultation/)

RESOLVED – That Members share their views and respond formally to the consultation.

## 8 BREXIT - DFT NOTE ON AIR SERVICES AGREEMENTS FOR AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

The Committee were provided with a Briefing Note produced by the DfT to help clarify the position on air service agreements and the need for new arrangements to be formalised when the UK leaves the EU.

Members noted that when the UK leaves the EU, Government would need a new arrangement with the EU to secure continued market access to/from the remaining 27 Member States post-brexite. This would be negotiated as part of the UK's wider future relationship with Brussels. The various EU-negotiated agreements with third countries would become legally inoperable for the UK on leaving the EU. Instead, Government would need to seek new bilateral agreements with those third countries. As stated in

the Briefing Note, the UK currently rely on EU-negotiated multilateral agreements for its air services access to 17 non-EU markets.

In preparation for Brexit, Members noted that the DfT's priorities were to secure maintenance of the liberal market access currently available under EU-negotiated agreements and to obtain a clear understanding in this regard at the very earliest opportunity in order to provide much needed reassurance for carriers and airports.

It was noted that the DfT had recently commenced discussions about post-Brexit bilateral air services arrangements with those 17 countries that had negotiated air services agreements with the EU. Those discussions would take place over the coming months with a view to ensuring that, at least a year before Brexit, the UK had reached an understanding with each of the countries involved.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

9 CAA REPORT ON PASSENGERS WITH REDUCED MOBILITY (PRM) SERVICE PERFORMANCE AT UK AIRPORTS

The Committee noted that the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) had published its 'Airport Accessibility Report 2016/17 on 11 August 2017 which assessed the UK's 30 busiest airports between April 2016 and March 2017 on the quality of the assistance they provide to passengers with a disability.

The report showed that the number of people with a disability requesting extra help when travelling by air continued to grow significantly and had now reached over three million journeys in 2016.

The report revealed that the majority of UK airports were providing a 'very good' or 'good' support. But, four airports had not met the CAA's expectations and had been told that they must improve.

The results of the CAA's 2016/17 review showed that DSA's performance had been rated as 'good' for the services it provides for disabled passengers.

Councillor Saunders asked how DSA planned to receive a 'very good' rating in the CAA's 2017/18 review.

K Naylor replied that the airport would be providing additional disability and autism awareness training to all staff and contractors who work in frontline customer services roles at DSA. Open days and further engagement with disability groups were scheduled within the year. Furthermore, DSA had introduced a hidden disability awareness wristband scheme which had been designed to be a sign that allowed the airport to assist passengers through the airport, either independently or with help from the airport's assistance service providers.

The inaugural meeting of the airport's internal Disability Forum had also been held recently.

K Naylor anticipated that the additional staff training, engagement with disability groups and documenting DSA's policies and procedures would enable the airport to move from a 'good' rating to a 'very good' rating in the next review.

Councillor Saunders stated that it may be helpful for the airport to work with the Sheffield Access Liaison Group. Councillor Saunders agreed to provide K Naylor with the appropriate contact details.

A Bosmans reported that FODSA had worked with the airport late last year to carry out a Disability Assessment Audit. A number of action points had arisen which the airport were working towards a programme of enhancements.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the report.

10 UKACC'S DRAFT RESPONSE TO THE DFT CALL FOR EVIDENCE TO HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE AVIATION STRATEGY

A Tolhurst referred Members to the Liaison Group for UK Airport Consultative Committees (UKACCs) draft response on the Government's call for evidence on the development of a new Aviation Strategy for the UK. He added that following consultation on the draft response, he had endorsed the contents of the draft response on behalf of the ACC.

RESOLVED – That the Committee noted the UKACCs Secretariat's draft response.

11 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE NOISE MONITORING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2017

The draft minutes of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee held on 14 September 2017 were presented for Members' information.

In relation to the Community Investment Fund, K Naylor informed Members that the airport was current reviewing its decision making arrangements.

RESOLVED – That the draft minutes of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee held on 14 September 2017 be noted.

12 SCHEDULE OF 2018 MEETING DATES

Councillor Saunders reported that several of the 2018 meeting dates clashed with meetings of the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority; to which he and Councillor Cox were Members.

It was agreed that the Committee Secretary would re-look at the schedule of 2018 meetings and communicate a revised schedule of meeting dates to Members after today's meeting via email.

RESOLVED – That future meetings of the Airport Consultative Committee be held on:-

Thursday 25 January (AGM and Ordinary)  
Thursday 12 April  
Thursday 12 July  
Thursday 18 October

All meetings will commence at 10:00 am, in the Blenheim meeting room, Heyford House, Doncaster Sheffield Airport, unless stated otherwise.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No further items of business were noted.

14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

RESOLVED – That the Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting be held on Thursday 25 January 2018 at 10:00 am in the Blenheim meeting room, Heyford House, Doncaster Sheffield Airport.

CHAIR