



ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT

AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

16 OCTOBER 2014

PRESENT: Alan Tolhurst OBE (Chair)
A Bosmans (FODSA), P Cole (Office of Caroline Flint MP), L Daffern (Robin Hood Airport), S Dishman (Doncaster Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise), Councillor R Franklin (Barnsley MBC), B Johnson (Doncaster MBC (Substitute for Mayor Jones)), Parish Councillor N McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), Councillor H McNamee (Doncaster MBC), Councillor P J O'Connor (Lincolnshire County Council), Dr R Fleming (Vulcan to the Sky Trust), Councillor P Schofield (Observer), A Shirt (Secretary, South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat), A Storey OBE (Ex-Officio), M Trotter (Vulcan to the Sky Trust), Councillor Y D Woodcock (Doncaster MBC) and Parish Councillor J Worthington (Cantley with Branton Parish Council)

Apologies were received from: J Bamford, Councillor Councillor B Barker, Councillor L Bramall, S Gill, Councillor Councillor B Hoyle, Mayor R Jones, K Naylor, County Councillor C Pearson, M Di Salvatore and Town Councillor P Scholey

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

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

An extended welcome went to Dr Robert Fleming and Michael Trotter from Vulcan to the Sky Trust.

Apologies for absence were noted above.

2 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements were made at today's meeting.

3 **PRESENTATION FROM VULCAN TO THE SKY TRUST**

Members received a presentation from Dr Robert Fleming, Chief Executive at Vulcan to the Sky Trust.

The presentation provided Members with a history of the Avro Vulcan, funding, hangar tours and plans for the future.

Members were informed that:

- On 18 October 2007 the Vulcan departed on its first flight following a 2 year restoration programme.
- Since 2007, there had been 192 flights; 272 flying hours; over 22 million people had seen the Vulcan at events and over £22m invested on the Vulcan's maintenance and restoration.
- It current costs £2.2m to fly the aircraft for one year, plus maintenance costs.
- Vulcan Experience Tours could be pre-booked online or by calling 0845 124 7285.
- The Vulcan Experience Tours had been ranked number 1 of 32 attractions in Doncaster on Trip Advisor.
- 25 September 2014 was the last flight of the Vulcan's flying season.
- The Vulcan's flying life would conclude at the end of 2015, a Business Plan was being developed for the Vulcan's legacy.

The Trust were currently working with the Aviation and Skills Partnership to create a Vulcan Aviation Academy, with the aim of attracting young people at an early age to consider a career in engineering and technology. It was indicated that the Academy would be built on site at Robin Hood Airport. It was anticipated that the Academy would be up and running in 2017/18.

Members were informed that the Vulcan to the Sky Trust would be holding an 'Expressions of Interest Day' on Friday 5th December 2015 in Hangar 3, where the Aviation Skills Academy would provide a briefing on the plans to create a Vulcan Aviation Academy.

RESOLVED – That the Committee thank Dr Fleming and M Trotter for the interesting and informative presentation.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JULY 2014

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Airport Consultative Committee held on 17 July 2014 be agreed as a correct record.

5 MATTERS ARISING

- i) Reply to the Transport Select Committee's Announcement regarding an inquiry into smaller airports

It was reported that S Gill was currently working with P Nears on a detailed reply to the Transport Select Committee's announcement of 10 July 2014. An update would be given at the January 2015 meeting. **ACTION: L Daffern via S Gill**

- ii) Thames Estuary Airport

Members noted that the Airports Commission had announced its decision not to add the inner Thames Estuary airport proposal to its shortlist of options for providing new airport capacity by 2030.

iii) Connections from RHADS to an international Hub

Councillor Johnson asked if there were any plans for Robin Hood to attract airlines which could take passengers to an international Hub, for example, Amsterdam or Heathrow. He asked if the Committee could help to lobby airlines for this service.

S Dishman commented that Doncaster Chamber would also support a Hub and Spoke model of operation. Adding that the Chamber would be happy to help lobby local businesses and the public in support of this model of operation.

A Tolhurst explained that in order for airlines to operate from an airport there needed to be a perceived level of commercial advantage. In respect of the Committees' role in lobbying, a discussion would need to take place with the Airport's Director, as it was unclear if the Committee could influence airlines.

ACTION: A Tolhurst to clarify with S Gill.

L Daffern indicated that she would make arrangements for Chris Harcombe (Head of Aviation Development) to attend the January meeting to explain the process which the airport goes through to attract new airlines to Robin Hood.

ACTION: L Daffern

iv) Pilgrim Fathers

A Tolhurst informed the Committee that along with the Airport Director, he had recently met with Tourism officers from Nottinghamshire, Bassetlaw and the Chairman of the Pilgrim Fathers Origins Association to further discuss the development of the Pilgrim Fathers trail. It had been agreed at the meeting that officers from the airport would meet again with the Chairman of the Pilgrim Fathers Origins Association and a PhD student to make progress with marketing the Pilgrim Fathers trail.

v) Airport Business Park Map, Master Plan and Vision Document

It was noted that the above action to supply Members with copies of the above was outstanding. **ACTION: L Daffern.**

vi) Litter on Old Bawtry Road, Finningley

L Daffern reported that following the July meeting, officers from the Airport had met with John Davies (Doncaster MBC, Environmental Health) to address the issue of littering on Old Bawtry Road.

Discussions were now taking place with Peel Airport's Legal Department and Doncaster MBC to clarify land ownership.

vii) Hedge Rows

L Daffern reported that some work had been carried out in cutting the hedge rows at Blaxton, however, this had been paused until land ownership had been clarified with Doncaster MBC and the Airport.

Members were reassured that once land ownership for the hedges had been clarified, then a scheduled maintenance of the hedge rows would be arranged.

L Daffern agreed to keep the Committee informed of progress and the outcome.

6 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Members noted that Lincolnshire County Council had appointed Councillor Johanna Churchill as substitute Member for Councillor Pat O'Connor.

RESOLVED – That the Membership update be noted.

7 AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT

L Daffern, Head of Airport Services provided the Committee with an update regarding the commercial, marketing and operational issues at RHADS. In summary it was reported that:-

- Initial discussions were taking place with RAF Waddington and the Vulcan to the Sky Trust in relation to arranging a Family Fun Day at the Airport in 2015, with the possibility of holding an Air Show at the Airport in 2016. Early ideas were to arrange for a fleet of 10-12 aircrafts from the 1950's/1960's to be stationed at the Family Fun Day.

Councillor Woodcock asked if the Airport could work/ask the Yorkshire Wildlife Park at Doncaster to attend the event. L Daffern stated that the Airport would be looking to work with all the connections/organisations in the area.

Councillor Johnson asked that as Doncaster MBC's Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth, Leisure and Tourism he be kept informed of developments due to Doncaster MBC's Marketing Team looking to support 12 events in the Doncaster area over the next twelve months.

- In terms of growth for next year, the Airport Director was anticipating this to be between ten to fifteen percent. A number of new opportunities were also being explored.
- Chris Harcombe had recently attended the World Routes Conference held in Chicago. His attendance at the conference was to promote the airport and to make the case for new air services.
- The Environment and Communities Officer, along with the Airport's Marketing Team would shortly be refreshing the Airport's Corporate Social Responsibility policy.
- Hanger 1 was currently being refurbished in preparation for use by 2Excel.

T Storey asked if the Isle of Man and Belfast City LinksAir service was being successful in terms of passenger numbers.

It was reported that load factors were steady; further work was still to be carried out to increase them.

A Bosmans asked if there had been any discussions with Jet2 to operate from Robin Hood, following the closure of Blackpool International Airport and its recent decision to base at Manchester Airport.

L Daffern confirmed that discussions had taken place with Jet2. In addition discussions had also taken place with Blackpool International Airport's staff regarding current job vacancies at Robin Hood, prior to the closure of the Airport.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

8 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ACC NOISE MONITORING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2014

RESOLVED – That the draft minutes of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee held on 18 September 2014 be noted.

9 SCHEDULE OF 2015 MEETINGS

RESOLVED – That the schedule of Airport Consultative Committee meetings for 2015 be agreed as follows:

Thursday 15 January 2015 (AGM and Ordinary Meeting)
Thursday 16 April 2015
Thursday 16 July 2015
Thursday 15 October 2015

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

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) Terminal Building – Addition of Passenger Waiting Area

Following feedback received from passengers, the Airport would be installing a 400 square meter addition at the rear of the terminal building. Installation would take place during January 2015, with works expected to take between 8-10 weeks.

ii) Customer Experience

T Storey suggested that it would be useful for the Committee to receive a briefing at future meeting regarding the customer experience from using the airport from start to finish.

It was also suggested that a briefing regarding how the airport arranges services for passengers with reduced mobility would be welcomed.

L Daffern agreed to provide briefings at the January meeting. **ACTION: L Daffern.**

iii) Airport Car Parking

A Bosmans reported that there had been a number of occasions over the summer period where the on-site car park had been full, causing passengers to panic.

L Daffern reported that following feedback from passengers, Ian Smith (the Airport's Commercial Manager) had taken on board the comments; plans were in place to rectify the issues raised. There were also plans in place to extend premium car parking by an additional 25 spaces over the winter period.

iv) Doncaster High Speed Rail College

Councillor Johnson informed the Committee that a new National College for High Speed Rail would be built in Doncaster, following a successful bid to the Centre for Rail Engineering and Technical Expertise.

The college would provide specialist vocational training to the next generation of engineers working on the High Speed 2 (HS2) project and beyond. The college would also enable local rail and engineering companies to build on their success, by upskilling their existing workforce and helping to attract new companies to the area.

Work would now begin on constructing the college and developing the available courses, before the site opens in September 2017.

The Committee commented that this was excellent news for Doncaster and for the Airport.

11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

i) 15 January 2015 – ACC Ordinary Meeting

The Committee noted that Peter Nears would be invited to attend the January meeting to inform the Committee about Peel's plans for the future of Robin Hood Airport and an update on the Airport's Master Plan.

A Tolhurst informed the Committee that the Section 106 Agreement between Doncaster MBC and the Airport would also be discussed at the January meeting.

ii) Lincoln Castle Restoration Project

A Tolhurst reported on-behalf of M Di Salvatore that a large restoration project was currently being carried out at Lincoln Castle. Some £22m is being spent on the Castle between 2011-14. It was intended that the revealing of the restored Lincoln Castle would be in time to celebrate the Magna Carta's 800th anniversary in 2015, which would attract thousands of visitors to the area.

Members were signposted to the following website for further information:
<http://historiclincolntrust.org.uk/countdown-to-lincoln-castle-revealed>

M Di Savatore had indicated that if the Committee wished she would make arrangements for the Lincoln's Tourism Officer to attend a future meeting to give a more detailed presentation about the Countdown to Lincoln Castle Revealed project. The Committee commented that they would welcome this presentation.

ACTION: A Shirt to arrange with M Di Salvatore for Lincoln's Tourism Officer to attend the April 2015 meeting.

A Tolhurst indicated that he would also arrange for the Chairman of the Pilgrim Fathers Origins Association to attend the April meeting to provide the Committee with a progress update.

RESOLVED –That the Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee be held on Thursday 15 January 2015 at 10:00 am in the Blenheim meeting room, Heyford House, Robin Hood Airport, Doncaster.