



**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 - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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