

Consultative Committee

DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

15 OCTOBER 2020 – VIRTUAL MEETING

PRESENT: Alan Tolhurst OBE (Chair)
A Bosmans (FODSA), Councillor S Cox (Doncaster MBC), Councillor R Franklin (Barnsley MBC), Councillor M Greenhalgh (Doncaster MBC), Councillor J Milne (West Lindsey District Council), Councillor B Mordue (Doncaster MBC), A Platts (Doncaster Chamber), Councillor C Rosling-Josephs (Sheffield City Council), M Di Salvatore (West Lindsey District Council), A Shirt (Committee Secretary), K Stow (Doncaster Sheffield Airport) and D Thomas (Doncaster Sheffield Airport)

Noise Monitoring & Environmental Sub-Committee representatives:-
Town Councillor A Cropley (Bawtry Town Council) and
Parish Councillor J Worthington (Cantley with Branton Parish Council)

Apologies were received from: Councillor M Cooper (Doncaster MBC), J Dyer (Doncaster Chamber), G Finch (Peel Land and Property & Doncaster Sheffield Airport), C Hall (Doncaster MBC), Councillor D Lelliott (Rotherham MBC), Parish Councillor N McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), County Councillor C Pearson (North Yorkshire County Council), Councillor C Perraton-Williams (Lincolnshire County Council), Councillor D Pidwell (Bassetlaw District Council), M Sewell (Doncaster MBC) and Y D Woodcock BEM (Ex-Officio)

1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

A Tolhurst welcomed everyone to the remote meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee (ACC).

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Tolhurst opened the meeting commenting that, he had hoped that today's meeting would have been held in person rather than electronically, but due to a second wave of the Coronavirus, there would be a longer period of uncertainty.

The pandemic has had a devastating effect thus far on the economy and there is bad news still to come.

Like so many other commercial activities, Aviation has been especially hard hit and almost each week there is news of further cutbacks and layoffs.

Referring to some of the papers included in today's agenda, representations had been made to the Government for support, but none has been forthcoming. In fact, some Governmental changes have had an adverse effect with quarantine rules and airport

testing being changed at a moment's notice, air bridges being established and then demolished and that, instead of it being abolished, Air Passenger duty is to be increased next year.

Even setting up the Global Travel Taskforce headed by Grant Shapps and Nick Hancock, although most welcome, it seems to many sceptics to be too little too late. He queried if it would lead to a coherent plan.

It was noted that The Union Connectivity Review was currently underway, however, the Terms of Reference had taken nearly four months to produce. The Review was a good development and could have an impact on the 'levelling-up' concept.

Members' attention was drawn to an excellent news article entitled 'Airport Schemes are Taking off Despite the Many Challenges'.

The news article had been published in the Yorkshire Post on 9th October 2020.

The news article stated that, "Doncaster Sheffield Airport (DSA) is pleased to be involved in the Great Northern Conference and to be contributing to the crucial debate on how to best focus on rebuilding the economy and developing opportunities across the North of England in a sustainable way, particularly given the unprecedented events of the past six months".

Article available at: <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/business/airport-schemes-are-taking-despite-many-challenges-2998952>

Referring to the latest UKACCs News Bulletin of 14th October 2020, Members' attention was drawn to an International Airport Review article published on 8th October 2020 entitled 'Strategising Airport Operations for the New Norm'.

Article available at:

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/article/138466/strategising-airport-operations-new-norm/>

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH JULY 2020

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Airport Consultative Committee held on 16th July 2020 be agreed as a correct record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

i) Questions and Answers Briefing Note on DSA's Airspace Changes, Noise and Environmental Issues

Following the request at the September ACC meeting, there had been no receipt of any frequently asked questions from Members on DSA's airspace changes, noise and environmental issues.

Members were asked to submit any frequently asked questions to the Committee Secretary for inclusion in the document as soon as possible.

ii) Special Meeting of the ACC - Presentation by Genecon

Following discussion, the Committee requested that a special meeting of the ACC be arranged within the next month to allow representatives from Genecon to provide the Committee with a detailed presentation focusing upon the delivery of the economic output of the airport, including the type and nature of jobs onsite at the airport, the distribution of jobs and where they sit in terms of job sectors.

K Stow added that, the airport would be happy to extend the invitation to any specialists within their organisations which Members represent. **ACTION: K Stow, A Tolhurst & A Shirt**

iii) Mayor Jones' Covid-19 Recovery Group

A Tolhurst asked airport representatives if they were content with the response provided from C Hall in relation to the membership of Mayor Jones' Covid-19 Recovery Group.

K Stow replied that, although the airport was involved with regards to sustainability, they had not been involved in any economic discussions, both now and in the future.

Councillor Mordue commented that it was imperative for the airport to be involved in discussions; the airport was a very important catalyst to supporting Doncaster's economic future.

On behalf of the airport, Councillor Mordue agreed to speak with Mayor Jones to highlight that there is a need for the airport to be involved in discussions and that they are an important contributor.

A Bosmans added he was disappointed to note that, the local authority was not consulting with the airport, due to the airport being a key regenerator in the region.

5 AIRPORT OPERATORS ASSOCIATION (AOA) LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER REGARDING COVID 19 AND AIRPORTS

The Committee noted the contents of a letter from the Airport Operators Association (AOA) and its member airports who had written to the Prime Minister on 3rd September 2020 to call for further Government action to support the UK aviation sector during the Covid-19 crisis.

The Committee discussed the current situation at length and noted that there has been a lack of Government action to support the UK aviation sector during the Covid-19 pandemic. Several Members asked if further action could be taken locally as they feared that the airport could be at risk without some support.

In reply, K Stow said that a consistently powerful voice from Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership, across the Mayoral Combined Authority, Doncaster MBC and from Nick Fletcher MP would be welcome. She then highlighted the activities of Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen in support of Tees Valley International Airport, as a good example of an effective campaign.

A Bosmans said that he was concerned there was a fragmented approach locally and that the message needed to be more comprehensive. This view was supported by other Members who expressed pride in the airport and commented on the value DSA adds to the local economy.

K Stow reminded Members of the investment already made by Peel Airports Limited in DSA and said that there were currently two funding opportunities which DSA was currently bidding for. The first opportunity, was to create a Doncaster Freeport which would drive inward investment and incentivisation to those companies to invest on-site and provide employment opportunities.

The second opportunity was in relation to a Freeport Infrastructure Fund bid, which Government was currently actively pursuing.

The airport was also heavily involved in discussions with the University of Sheffield with regards to the aspiration to create an Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) type facility and locate this on the airport site. This would provide a research and development anchor and supply chain opportunities on the airport site.

Following a lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed that DSA is a key contributor to the sustainability agenda and plays a leading role in the local economy, the loss of which would have a devastating impact and yet the above points do not appear to be being made strongly enough to Government.

The Committee recognised that the recovery and sustainability packages are being addressed regionally and locally but Members felt that the case for supporting DSA could be enhanced regionally and nationally.

The Committee's view was that, without a more cogent case being made to sustain DSA, the facility must be at risk. Accordingly, the Committee agreed that a letter be sent by the Airport Consultative Committee to Mayor Dan Jarvis, copied to local Leaders, Doncaster and Nottinghamshire Local Chambers of Commerce, to request that, they do all that they are able to make the case for supporting DSA, so that operations can continue in their current form and for the airport to remain a key contributor to the regeneration of the region. **ACTION: A Tolhurst & A Shirt**

RESOLVED – That the Committee noted the contents of the Airport Operators Association (AOA) letter to the Prime Minister.

6 GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE HOC TRANSPORT COMMITTEE - IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

The Committee noted the contents of a UKACCs Briefing Note which summarised Government's response to the HoC Transport Committee's second report on the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Committee also noted the contents of UKACCs' letters to the Secretary of State for Transport and to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, setting out UKACCs' concerns reading the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on UK airports.

RESOLVED – That the Committee:-

- i) Noted the contents of a UKACCs Briefing Note which summarised Government's response to the HoC Transport Committee's second report on the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic.
- ii) Noted the contents of UKACCs' letters to the Secretary of State for Transport and to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

7 AIRPORT OPERATORS ASSOCIATION (AOA) NEWS ARTICLE - "LACK OF ACTION RISKS THE DEMISE OF UK AVIATION"

The Committee noted the contents of a news article written by the Airport Operators Association's (AOA) Chief Executive Karen Dale, following the Chancellor's Statement unveiling the Winter Economic Plan.

RESOLVED – That the Committee noted the contents of the news article.

8 ICCAN - AVIATION NOISE AND PUBLIC HEALTH: RAPID EVIDENCE ASSESSMENT

The Committee noted the contents of an ICCAN briefing note giving details of the publication of their report, 'Aviation Noise and Public Health: Rapid Evidence Assessment', which explores the relationship between aviation noise and people's health.

The briefing note also set out the key findings and ICCAN's next steps.

RESOLVED – That the Committee noted the contents of ICCAN's briefing note.

9 AIRPORT ACTIVITIES UPDATE REPORT

K Stow provided the Committee with a verbal update on airport activities.

The following key business updates were noted:

- The Wizz Air base at DSA was scheduled to open on 22nd October 2020.
- The outlook for TUI remained very challenging. The airport anticipated that TUI would operate a limited number of flights during the winter season from DSA, mainly due to passenger demand and customers deferring their holidays until next year. Next summer sales for TUI were currently very strong.

The January / February holiday booking period for TUI would be very important. It was hoped that customer confidence would return next year.

- Due to the financial impact of Covid, representations had been made to Peel Airports for considerable investment on DSA's 5 year Business Plan.
- The airport continued lobbying working in partnership with the Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG), the Regional and Business Airports (RABA) Group and the Airport Operators Association (AOA).

The airport continued to respond to all consultations, letters and were involved in a number of Special Interest Groups.

D Thomas added that, in relation to lobbying, there had been signs of 'green shoots' emerging from discussions with RABA, the AOA and from an expert Steering Group which DSA sat on with other airports, airlines and members of Treasury etc. who were asking for easements which would help operational reductions throughout the winter period to help sustain employment. The Steering Group were also examining NextGen testing and when it would need to be introduced.

It was highlighted that, the airport still needed answers from Government with regards to business rates relief, a solution to Air Passenger Duty (ADP) and a bespoke aviation jobs scheme package.

- DSA would be submitting a bid to the Port Infrastructure Fund, which had recently been announced by Government for the construction of new facilities.
- A joint DSA and iPort bid for Freeport status was currently on-going. A Government announcement had been made on 7th October 2020, setting out further details around how it would create a number of new innovative Freeports across the UK to create jobs, drive investment and regenerate communities.
- In relation to the Gateway East Rail Scheme, the DfT had rejected proposals for the Scheme to enter the Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline (RNEP) process to circa £1.5m of funding which would have allowed the Scheme to progress to outline business case stage.

Partners' were of the view that there were not strong grounds to reject the proposal at this time. Work would continue to progress the Scheme.

- The Coronavirus Testing Centre remained operational onsite at the airport. The contract with the Department for Health and Serco had been extended.
- Conversations continued with the Vulcan to the Sky Trust with regards to their ambitions for a Business Plan, linking with the airport's operational requirements and regulations.
- Neil Lees had recently stepped down from his position as Deputy Chairman of the Peel Group. It was likely that John Peter Whittaker would take over from Neil Lees on the Airport Board at senior management level.

Sustainability Update

K Stow reported that the airport was facing considerable focus from politicians regarding the sustainability agenda and the airport. Furthermore, it was prohibiting them from speaking publically in support of the airport, due to them being conflicted because of Climate Change Emergency Declarations and the economic imperative to support their airport.

K Stow and D Thomas had been engaged with Doncaster MBC's Climate Change Commission over the last 12 months to produce a Sustainability Road Map.

D Thomas delivered a presentation which provided the Committee with an overview of the airport's strategic approach to its Sustainability Growth Plan.

Members noted that the Doncaster Climate Change Report was expected to be issued and launched on 16th October 2020. Six 'asks' had been agreed, which the airport would commence work towards as part of its journey to sustainable growth.

In relation to airport growth and emissions, work would be commissioned shortly to carry out carbon calculations based on ground and air activity at DSA.

DSA would shortly be launching a bespoke page on the DSA website dedicated to Carbon Offset to provide passengers of DSA with further knowledge on how they can offset their carbon footprint when travelling with the airport. An online platform would be created to allow passengers to calculate and offset their flight's footprint. Once added to the cart, passengers would be able to see the projects which the airport is working on to reduce its Carbon Footprint with a number of Gold Standard projects and verified carbon standard projects. In addition, passengers would receive a certificate recognising that the carbon footprint of their journey had been accounted for.

To progress the airport's road map to sustainable growth, AECOM would be commissioned in November to carry out a 3 phase approach, as set out below:-
Phase 1 – To Review the Strategies already in place.
Phase 2 – To produce a Sustainable Growth Road Map.
Phase 3 – Implement the Strategy.

In response to a question from Councillor Cox, it was noted that the Sustainable Road Map was aligned to Airport Masterplan and wider Peel Airport Strategy, concentrating on airport and airline operations.

The Committee thanked Craig Hewitt and the Airport's Marketing Team for developing the Carbon Offset Calculator during the current Covid-19 crisis.

The Committee would be consulted on the Sustainability Road Map in the near future.

It was agreed that a copy of the presentation would be forwarded to the Committee after today's meeting. **ACTION: D Thomas via A Shirt**

On behalf of G Finch, K Stow provided the Committee with the following updates:-

- It was noted that the Doncaster Local Plan had been submitted to Government for Independent Examination. Hearings would take place with the appointed Inspector and run until mid-November.

It was anticipated that the Local Plan would be adopted in mid-2021. G Finch was working heavily with Doncaster MBC colleagues on the Local Plan process.

- Members were informed that the airport had made representations against the crane development site planning application in Finningley on regulatory grounds, including expectations and safety.

It was confirmed that the airport had been in regular dialogue with Doncaster MBC about the planning application and had done everything which they could to make sure the development was within the safety requirements of the airport. It was noted that the planning application had recently been approved by the Planning Committee, despite the representations made by the airport.

Councillor Cox commented that, he was disappointed to note there had been a lack of local community representations made in respect of the planning application.

K Stow added that, in the interests of the community, Peel had tried to engage the communities support to also make representations to Doncaster MBC.

- In relation to the recent flooding close to the residential area on First Avenue, it was confirmed that, after examination, this matter was for Doncaster MBC to manage with the housing developer who had responsibility for the drainage in this area.

With regards to the flooding on the junction of First Avenue, it was reported that this was currently going through a process with Doncaster MBC Drainage officers to establish an available solution as to where the rain water should discharge and to remove the ponding currently taking place.

Following a Technical Survey, it was understood that the current rain water run-off was not suitable and fit for purpose.

To address this, there were currently a number of different options being drawn-up and costed. The next stage would be to address funding and to agree if Peel needed to make a contribution towards remedial works due to the highway being adopted by Doncaster MBC.

Councillor Cox thanked K Stow for airport's support in helping to address the flooding issues in the local area.

K Stow thanked Councillors Steve Cox and Jane Cox for their support.

- Five out twelve units on the Avro Park were now occupied. Notwithstanding the Covid pandemic, growing businesses were now moving onto the site, which was excellent news.

Trebor Developments speculative development of more than 100,000 sq ft of industrial space accommodation was now complete and open for let.

Speculative units were currently being built (close to the school area) and scheduled completion in winter 2020/21.

- The airport was currently working very closely with the Department for Trade and Industry. A presentation would be delivered to them by airport representatives on Monday 19th October 2020 to make the case that, DSA is an area of innovation and employment opportunities.

On behalf of the Committee, A Tolhurst thanked K Stow and D Thomas for their comprehensive updates.

RESOLVED – That the updates be noted.

10 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE NOISE MONITORING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 2020

RESOLVED – That the draft minutes of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee held on 24th September 2020 be noted.

11 PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF 2021 ACC MEETING DATES

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

Thursday 28th January 2021 (AGM and Ordinary)

Thursday 22nd April 2021

Thursday 15th July 2021

Thursday 14th October 2021

All meetings will commence at 10:00 am.

Due to the on-going Coronavirus pandemic, Members would be notified of the meeting arrangements in advance of the meeting.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) Heritage Memorial Project

Parish Councillor Worthington asked if an update could be provided in relation to the current status of the Heritage Memorial Project.

K Stow replied that, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, work on the Heritage Memorial Project had been paused. However, it was on the Marketing Team's agenda to progress and complete the work during the first quarter of 2021.

Parish Councillor Worthington added that she had located details of all the deceased RAF officers and would forward this information when work recommenced on the project.

ii) Training Flights

Parish Councillor Scutt reported that an easyJet aircraft had been undertaking training at the airport during the morning of 14th October 2020. Although the aircraft had varied its route, there were some instances where the aircraft had flown directly over Blaxton village.

He added that, “promises” had previously been made by DSA that training flights would not fly over local villages. Furthermore, it was illogical for the airport to require commercial flights to follow the Noise Preferential Route, but allowed training flights to pass low over Blaxton village.

K Stow replied that easyJet training flights operated within the framework of the permitted routes. Furthermore, the movements were within the training flights voluntary restrictions implemented in 2019.

It was highlighted that, no promises had ever been made that training flights would not fly over local villages. Training flights would take the authorised permitted route and be limited to 40 circuits per day.

A Tolhurst commented that the Committee had never received assurances from the airport that training flights would not fly over local villages. Wherever possible, training pilots would try to avoid local villages, but this was very much dependent upon the wind and weather at the time of flying.

Parish Councillor Scutt was requested to forward details of his complaint via email to allow D Thomas to investigate. **ACTION: Parish Cllr Scutt / D Thomas.**

A Tolhurst reminded Members that all complaints regarding aircraft noise should be reported directly to the airport, to allow them to log the complaint, investigate and opportunity to provide a response.

To lodge a complaint, Members could do so by leaving their name and address followed by the date of the disturbance, time and any other information to assist the investigation by:

- Calling the 24 hour answering service on 01302 623499
- Emailing environment@flydsa.co.uk
- Use the online web form at <https://www.flydsa.co.uk/about-us/environment/>
- Or by writing to:
Environment & Community Manager
Doncaster Sheffield Airport
Heyford House
First Avenue
Doncaster
DN9 3RH

13 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting of the ACC be held Thursday 28th January 2021 at 10:00 am.

CHAIR