



ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT

AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

24 OCTOBER 2013

PRESENT: Mr A Tolhurst OBE (Chair)
Mayor R Jones (Doncaster MBC), A Jones (Doncaster MBC),
Parish Councillor N McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), M McCoolle (South
Yorkshire Joint Secretariat), County Councillor C Pearson (North Yorkshire
County Council), Ms M Di Salvatore (West Lindsey District Council), I Smith
(Robin Hood Airport), K Stones (FODSA), Mr A Storey OBE (Ex-Officio),
Councillor Y D Woodcock (Doncaster MBC) and
Parish Councillor J Worthington (Cantley with Branton Parish Council)

Apologies were received from: Mr J Bamford, Councillor B Barker, Councillor
L Bramall, Mr P Cole, Mr D Craven, Mrs L Daffern, Mr J Davies, Mr D Fell,
L Findlay, Mr S Gill, Mr C Harcombe, P Harris, Mr I Lings,
Councillor B Mathers, Councillor H McNamee, Mr P Nears,
Councillor P Schofield, Town Councillor P Scholey, A Shirt, Councillor
P Skelding, Weston, J White, R Wilkinson, Mr R Wright and Mrs S Youngman

1 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Councillor McCarron gave thanks to everyone for their best wishes following her
accident.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

The Committee noted that agenda items 7 and 8 would be taken together.

2 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 JULY 2013**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2013 be agreed as a
correct record.

3 **MATTERS ARISING**

Regional Tourism – Pilgrim Fathers' Heritage Trail

A Tolhurst said that he had attended a recent visit to the Airport by Mike Burrows, the
Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council, who confirmed that his authority
sees the Airport as a significant strategic player in the region. Regular liaison had
since been established between Steve Gill and Mike Burrows, to discuss how the
Airport may impact upon strategic plans and the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and
Nottinghamshire Enterprise Partnership. **ACTION:- To be raised at the next
Committee meeting.**

Wind Farms – Selby and Rotherham

No update was currently available.

Doncaster Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise – Meeting at RHADS 10 May 2013

I Smith would provide an update within his report on today's agenda, on the reasons why people should fly from the Airport, and the efforts being carried out to attract airlines to the Airport.

Arrangements for the next Committee Meeting (AGM and Ordinary Meetings)
16 January 2014

I Smith would make arrangements for the next Committee meeting (AGM and Ordinary Meetings) on 16 January 2014 to be held in the Terminal Building at the Airport. **ACTION:- I Smith**

ACTION:- Members were reminded to bring their passports to the meeting, to ensure access to relevant parts of the Terminal Building.

Apprenticeships

I Smith commented that there were no apprenticeships currently at the Airport, but plans were in place to start in the future. Apprenticeships had now commenced at Durham Tees Valley Airport.

4 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Members noted the following change of membership on the Airport Consultative Committee:-

Nottinghamshire County Council had appointed Councillor Pam Skelding (in place of Councillor Mike Quigley MBE).

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

5 AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT

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

- The year to date air movements at the airport had seen positive growth.
- Passenger numbers were 3% ahead of plan in the period April to September 2013.
- The industry as a whole had suffered because of travellers concentrating on "staycations" due to the good weather encountered in the UK during the year.
- Following a reasonably weak start, Thomson were 3% ahead of last year's activity position.
- The Airport looks to be in a much stronger position post New Year.

- Thomson's sales figures to the large Egypt project had been affected, due to the unrest in Egypt. One of the winter services to Sharm El-Sheikh had been lost and replaced by a Lanzarote service. The Airport was working closely with Thomson on the matter.
- The results from the Consumer Research Programme would be delivered to the January 2014 Committee meeting. Discussions had been held with airlines and experts to ascertain the catchment areas for potential passenger markets. The Airport needed to engage with the wider catchment area. There was serious concern that the public were unaware of what the Airport currently had to offer.
- A marketing campaign advertising the airport was currently being aired on Capital FM, and promotional work had been carried out with Ryan Air for travel to Tenerife during the winter months. The Airport was spending money on raising public awareness.
- The current cargo performance was strong, with 8% ahead of last year, and had attracted ad hoc cargo coming through the Airport.
- Business aviation activity was growing, with an improvement compared to last year; although there had not been as good an uptake for the St Leger Festival as anticipated.
- Following the World Routes Conference, a number of carrier operators had expressed an interest in opportunities at the Airport. A Pakistani operator was looking at markets in the North of England and had expressed an interest in the operating from the Airport. ACTION:- C Harcombe to provide an update at the next Committee meeting.
- Advanced discussions were underway with a carrier for UK domestic services, for services to commence in March/April 2014.
- A review was being undertaken with partners in the terminal i.e. retail, beverages, taxi and parking facilities etc. The car park would be re-defined to provide for separate short stay and drop off areas, which would be clearly defined upon approach.
- There would be a number of revenue streams for refurbishment during the winter months.
- The Airport Controller was now located back at the Airport, and operating well.
- An advertisement for the recruitment of a Travel Trade Executive had been made, and a Cargo Business Manager was still being sought. Rachel Farr had been appointed as Internal Head of Marketing and Communications.
- The Airport was very much Thomson focused, and it endeavoured to bring in another operator to work alongside Thomson. The low cost market was fundamentally the key target market the Airport needed to deliver to.

RESOLVED – That I Smith be thanked for the update.

6 UPDATE ON THE FINNINGLEY AND ROSSINGTON REGENERATION ROUTE SCHEME (FARRRS)

I Smith informed Members that following the official launch, talks were underway regarding the commencement of the build, with a completion date set for the end of 2015. A positive reaction had been received from the Airline Partners.

Mayor Jones commented that the FARRRS was in the top ten schemes in the Sheffield City Region, and was fully funded. The last 2½ kilometres would allow FARRRS to be brought to the Airport, including a rail link; the next phase would be for a small rail station to be established at the Airport by 2018/19.

7 IMPROVING ACCESS TO LEEDS BRADFORD AIRPORT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF AIRPORT CITY MANCHESTER - IMPACT ON RHADS

A Tolhurst informed Members that the Airport Commission were considering the provision of UK aviation hub services and an interim report could be expected in December 2013. Early indications are that enhanced runway facilities will be recommended. He added that it was against this background that West Yorkshire and Leeds District Councils were starting to work together, to improve access into Leeds Bradford Airport. In addition, the Manchester Airport City scheme was being well supported.

A Tolhurst wondered whether the developments in Leeds and Manchester would have an impact on RHADS, and queried how strong was the support to the Airport from the Local Enterprise Partnership. Mayor Jones commented that there was a real commitment from the Local Enterprise Partnership, and Phase 2 of FARRRS was one of the five schemes from Doncaster MBC. Mayor Jones added that if the Airport wanted to be seen as an international airport, it would need links to airports that had transatlantic flights.

I Smith commented that following the recent change in ownership of RHADS, and the resources Peel Airports Ltd had put in, real growth opportunities had started to be seen at the Airport.

I Smith referred to the following low cost airline carriers:-

- Jet 2 – Had a strong base at Leeds Bradford and East Midlands Airports. RHADS Airport had spoken to Jet 2 on a number of occasions; it was felt they would fit well with the Thomson product.
- Monarch – Had gone into Leeds Bradford Airport for its' first season; it was felt that Monarch could bring value to RHADS Airport.
- Ryan Air – There was still an opportunity for RHADS Airport.
- RHADS Airport was far the cheapest airport for travel to Tenerife during November 2013, December 2013 and January 2014.
- RHADS Airport had a good programme with Wizz Air, with the possibility of developing services to Western European areas, and also from Doncaster to Palma Airport.

Members made the following suggestions for promoting the Airport:-

- To target local travel agents, and travel agents within the Sheffield City Region.
- Advertisements to be included in the Frenchgate Shopping Centre and Doncaster Interchange.
- The Tourist Information Office to stock leaflets about the Airport, for people who did not have internet access.
- Local parishes to display the minutes of meetings and details of the Airport on noticeboards.
- Regular advertisements in local newspapers.
- Small leaflets to be revised and sent out every three months, to each local hotel, pub, parish council and local resident.
- The public to be made aware of the Airport and Thomson websites.

M Di Salvatore asked whether Doncaster MBC's LEP could instigate discussions with West Lindsey District Council's LEP, who were pushing the logistic transport sector. All LEPs were developing regional growth plans, which could incorporate the development of the Airport.

K Stones commented that Chinese investment had now been agreed at Manchester City Airport.

Members were requested to contact I Smith if there were any other outlets which could be contacted, in relation to promoting the Airport.

A Tolhurst summed up by saying that all organisations represented on the Committee needed to become more active in "marketing" RHADS; the task could be left to the Airport alone to undertake.

8 KEY POINTS AND OUTCOMES FROM THE UKACCS ANNUAL MEETING 2013

RESOLVED – That Members noted the key points and outcomes from the UKACCS Annual Meeting 2013.

9 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE NOISE MONITORING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2013

Councillor Pearson gave thanks for the useful visit around the Airport's Fire Station and Air Traffic Control, which he had found very interesting.

RESOLVED – That the draft minutes of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee held on 19 September 2013 be noted.

10 SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES 2014

RESOLVED – That Members noted the following Schedule of Meetings for 2014, to be held at Robin Hood Airport:-

Airport Consultative Committee

Thursday 16 January (AGM and Ordinary) – 10 am, Terminal Building
Thursday 17 April – 10 am, Blenheim Meeting Room, Heyford House
Thursday 17 July – 10 am, Blenheim Meeting Room, Heyford House
Thursday 16 October – 10 am, Blenheim Meeting Room, Heyford House

Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee

Thursday 20 March – 10 am, Blenheim Meeting Room, Heyford House
Thursday 19 June – 10 am, Blenheim Meeting Room, Heyford House
Thursday 18 September – 10 am, Blenheim Meeting Room, Heyford House
Thursday 4 December – 10 am, Blenheim Meeting Room, Heyford House

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members agreed that it would be beneficial if Peter Nears, Director of Strategic Planning at Peel Holdings would be invited to attend a future Committee meeting, to update Members on the Airport Master Plan.

Members noted that Councillor Chris Underwood-Frost had sadly died. A letter of condolence would be sent to West Lindsey District Council on behalf of the Committee.

12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the next meeting (AGM and Ordinary Meetings) of the Airport Consultative Committee be held on Thursday 16 January 2014 at 10.00 am at the Terminal Building, Robin Hood Airport, Doncaster.

CHAIR