

GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT FORUM

Minutes of Meeting No. 69

Held on Wednesday, 27th March 2013 in Conference Room 1 at 7.00pm

Attendees:

Mr Alan Walker	Deputy Chairman
Cllr Adam Newton	Belfast City Council
Cllr James McKerrow	North Down Borough Council
Cllr John Montgomery	North Down Borough Council
Mr Jonny Currie	East Belfast Community Development Agency
Mr Mark Doherty	Belfast Harbour Commissioners
Mr Scott Kennerley	Northern Ireland Consumer Council
Mr Gordon Wright	Hollywood Residents' Association
Mrs Lisa Toland	Belfast City Council
Mr Larry Thompson	Cultra Residents' Association (substitute)
Mr Brian Ambrose	George Best Belfast City Airport
Mr Stephen Leonard	Belfast City Council (substitute)

Observers:

Mr Sean Coulter	Department for Regional Development
-----------------	-------------------------------------

In attendance:

Miss Laura Duggan	Forum Secretary
-------------------	-----------------

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Mrs Julie Allen	Belfast City Council
Cllr Tom Haire	Belfast City Council
Mr John Moore	Belfast Chamber of Commerce
Mr Christopher McFerran	Helen's Bay & Crawfordsburn Residents' Association
Dr Colm McNamee	Park Road and District Residents' Association
Ms Claire Donnelly	Park Road and District Residents' Association
Dr Andrew Grieve	Department for Regional Development
Mr Stephen Finlay	Northern Ireland Tourist Board
Dr Daniel V. McCaughan	Cultra Residents' Association

Mr Ambrose advised Members that following the last meeting, Members were invited to put forward nominations for the position of Forum Chair. Three Members responded and all of whom have nominated Mr Alan Walker (Forum Deputy Chair) for the position. On this basis, Mr Ambrose sought Members agreement that Mr Walker be appointed Forum Chair. All Members

were in agreement. Mr Walker was asked to re-join the meeting and was invited to take up the position of Forum Chair. Mr Walker agreed. Mr Walker thanked Members for the nomination and paid tribute to former chairpersons of the Forum, Mr Alan Crowe and Mrs Anne Dickson.

Mr Walker commenced the formal proceedings as Forum Chair.

2. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Mr Walker welcomed Mr Larry Thompson from Cultra Residents' Association who was standing in for Dr McCaughan and Mr Stephen Leonard from Belfast City Council who was standing in for Mrs Allen.

3. MINUTES OF THE FORUM MEETING HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2012

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record. All actions from previous meeting were closed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Airline Representation at Forum meetings

Mr Ambrose advised that GBBCA have been in contact with the base airlines regarding attending Forum meeting. British Airways have said that unfortunately given their base is at Heathrow Airport they would not be able to send a representative to Forum meetings. The base captain for Aer Lingus's Belfast operation has recently been promoted to a position in Dublin and GBBCA are awaiting a replacement. GBBCA is still seeking commitment from the base captain for Flybe to attend at least one meeting per year.

Action: Mr Ambrose

4.2 Car Hire deposit charges for international customers

Mr Ambrose advised Members that the car hire companies operating at GBBCA had been asked if they impose additional deposit requirements on international customers. Mr Ambrose said that three out of the four car hire companies responded that they do not do this. However, Europcar responded that in instances where an international customer presents a UK driving license and a foreign address or vice versa their insurance dictates that they charge an additional deposit. All first time customers (renter or driver) who present a UK driving licence and have a foreign address must now provide a £1,000 deposit, with the exception of those customers renting a Prestige vehicle who must now provide a £2,000 deposit. This deposit increase is also implemented for drivers with an International Licence but a UK address. There are two reasons for this:

1. Customer with a UK address must be Authenticated (an Address confirmation check). This proves the customer has ties to the address they have given and can be traced back to this address. It works on a scoring system that a customer must pass, before we can actually rent.

2. Secondly due to the Licensing laws in the UK. The laws ensure people must exchange their licence within 12 months of becoming a resident.

This occurrence is quite rare (about once a year), Europcar have said this only occurs once a year.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Mr Ambrose delivered an update to Members on the following:

6.1 Business Performance

- GBBCA expect about 550,000 passengers during Q1 2013
- There breakdown of passenger numbers across the airlines is now more balanced with 60% for Flybe, 20% for British Airways and 20% for Aer Lingus which represents a more balanced picture
- Preparations are underway for the G8 Summit in June and the World Police and Fire (WPF) Games in August of this year.
- GBBCA faced a challenging day of operations on Friday 22nd March due to severe and adverse weather including snow and high winds. Significant investments had been made in snow clearing equipment in 2012 and this worked well. However, cross winds of 45mph were being experienced which exceeded the operational limits, of all Airlines.

6.2 Route Development

- Aer Lingus are to commence its International routes at the end of the week to Faro / Malaga / Palma

6.3 Capital Expenditure

- Accommodation has been created for British Airways and Aer Lingus
- International Arrivals opened in March and from 28th March will become part of the Restricted Zone.
- Development and reinforcement of the eastern apron has been taking place in March and work is to be completed today in advance of the first international arrival on 28th March.
- Work is to commence shortly to expand the Long Stay Car Park to bring into use the site recently vacated by the Air Cadets.
- Investment is to be made in 2013 to enhance the approach lighting.
- Total capital spend in 2013 is estimated to be £2m.

6.4 Corporate Responsibility

- GBBCA have formally launched its Apprenticeship Scheme. 10 apprenticeships will be taken on by GBBCA and its Business Partners on a one year programme. GBBCA have teamed up with a local training group and the apprentices will be working towards a NVQ qualification while on placement with the Airport. The scheme was designed to address the issue raised by local councillors of unemployment amongst young people in

the community. A launch event took place in February at GBBCA and Mr Ambrose thanked those Members that attended.

- GBBCA are pleased to have reached the £100k mark for its Community Fund

Mr Ambrose accepted questions from Forum Members regarding the Chief Executive's report.

Mr Currie queried if ten apprentices will be working directly for the Airport or with its Business Partners. Mr Ambrose responded that while GBBCA had taken on one apprentice in the first instance along with nine of its Business Partners, he would expect the number of apprentices to be taken on by the Airport to grow as the programme develops.

Cllr Montgomery queried if the Airport is expecting to secure routes to Germany as part of new route development. Mr Ambrose responded that while this is unlikely to happen in 2013 as routes are already being set for the winter season, GBBCA is working to secure access to key European cities for 2014 onwards. This is being supported by DETI who is engaging in a broader piece of work to enhance connectivity for Northern Ireland through new route development at all of the NI airports.

Cllr Montgomery asked Mr Ambrose what could be done to address the flow of NI passengers to Dublin. Mr Ambrose stated that he believed access is key to address this and to give customers an alternative.

Cllr Newton queried what activities were being undertaken to promote the WPF Games. Mr Ambrose responded that GBBCA's Landside Operational Manager (Judith Davis) is involved in a working group with NITB that is looking at whole visitor experience.

Mr Thompson queried what types of aircraft would be flying the international routes. Mr Ambrose responded that it would be the same aircraft as currently operate at GBBCA – mostly A319 and A320s.

7. AIRPORT STATISTICS

Mr Ambrose gave an update on the Forum Reports:

- Historical summary of movements post 21:30 hrs
- Analysis of delays post 21:30 hrs
- Bias of flights over Belfast Lough
- Analysis of movements post 23:00 hrs local
- Movements by aircraft type
- Analysis of noise related complaints 2012-13

In relation to Report 2 - delay of flights post 21:30, Mr Ambrose advised that GBBCA were currently investigating the reason behind the number of delays on the London Heathrow route operated by British Airways and would report back with further detail in the meeting minutes.

Mr Ambrose briefed Members on a number of exceptional movements after 23:59 hours in January 2013.

8. REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUB GROUP

The Report from the Environmental Sub Group on 25th February 2013 that had been circulated in advance of the meeting was noted by Members.

9. PRESENTATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE DIRECTIVE

Miss Laura Duggan in her position of Environmental Executive for GBBCA delivered a presentation on the Environmental Noise Directive outlining the main pieces of legislation, the objectives, key requirements, implementation by GBBCA and next steps.

Cllr McKerrow queried what industry developments there have been in terms of reducing aircraft noise. Mr Ambrose responded that there had been considerable developments in engine and airframe technology over the last number of decades that have made aircraft coming into use today significantly quieter than the aircraft they are replacing. Furthermore, measures taken at airports such as providing aircraft Fixed Electrical Ground Power which is a silent power supply, the establishment of Noise Abatement Procedures and preferential routes for aircraft and placing restrictions on the timing and location of ground engine testing are all aimed at managing and reducing the noise impact on the local community.

Miss Duggan advised Members that a coalition of UK airlines, airports, engine and airframe manufacturers and air navigation service providers called Sustainable Aviation has been established to specifically to address sustainability issues including aircraft noise. One of the key goals for SA is to deliver on the ACARE target to reduce perceived external noise by 50% by 2020 compared to the equivalent new aircraft in 2000 through a combination of new technology and improvements in operational procedures.

Post meeting note:

Since 2012 SA has been working across industry to develop a Noise Road-Map which sets out how it believes aircraft noise impact can be reduced between now and 2050. This Noise Road Map is due to be launched on 23 April 2013.

For more information on SA please visit their website: <http://www.sustainableaviation.co.uk/>

10. AOB

Miss Duggan advised Members that the Government had just published the final Aviation Policy Framework and it is available on the Department for Transport website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/aviation-policy-framework>

Mr Wright said he had received feedback from his local community that there was not enough awareness about what routes are available and GBBCA should do more to publicise this in its communications such as the Community News.

Mr Kennerley advised Members that the Consumer Council has just launched a new collection of transport guides aimed at equipping air and ferry passengers with information on their rights and responsibilities when they travel. The guides are as follows:

- Plane Facts - Your essential Guide to Air Travel,
- Access to Air (for passengers with a disability or reduced mobility)
- Access to Air – Easy Read (for those with a learning disability),
- Plain Sailing – Your rights in instances of ferry service delays and cancellations
- Access to Ferry Travel (for passengers with a disability or reduced mobility).

The publications will be available in all airports, ferry terminals, tourist information centres, MP/MLA constituency offices, CAB offices, independent advice centres, local libraries and Health Trusts. They are also available for download on the he Consumer Council website: www.consumercouncil.org.uk

11. DATE FOR 2013 MEETINGS

Proposed dates:

- Wednesday 26th June
- Wednesday 20th November

Signed:



Date:

26/6/13

Alan Walker (Deputy Chairman)
AW/ld