

GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT FORUM
Minutes of Meeting No 94
Held on Wednesday 27 April 2022 at 7.30pm
VENUE: Online via Zoom

Attendees:

David Courtenay	Department for Infrastructure
Raymond McNair	Belfast City Airport
Mark Doherty	Belfast Harbour Commissioners
Carol Edwards	Forum Chair
Daniel V McCaughan	Cultra Residents' Association
Alastair Curran	Belfast City Council
David McCambley	Belfast City Council
Alderman Tom Haire	Belfast City Council

In Attendance:

Mr Ian Nuttall	Belfast City Airport
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1. APOLOGIES AND OPENING REMARKS

Apologies were received from -

Alan Andrews	Hollywood Residents' Association
Councillor Gillian Greer	Ards and North Down Borough Council
Councillor John Kyle	Belfast City Council
Dot Erskine	Tourism Northern Ireland

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Members agreed that the minutes represented an accurate record of the meeting held on 24 April 2022.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None.

4. APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIR

Mrs Edwards proposed Mrs Kathy Graham as a candidate for the vacant post as Deputy Forum Chair (which would include the role of Environmental Sub-Group [ESG] Chair, as agreed at the last Forum meeting) and provided an overview of Mrs Graham's credentials including a pen portrait summarising her relevant experience. Following a recess to allow consideration Members approved Mrs Graham's appointment, to take effect from the next ESG/Forum meeting.

5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY GROUPS

Mrs Edwards explained the recent difficulties in attracting community groups to join the Forum. Mr Nuttall outlined the various attempts made since the decision taken in 2019 to re-recruit groups; these have included advertising and re-advertising on the Community NI website and on social media, contact with previous member groups, and requests made to a range of community-based umbrella bodies, elected members and other interested parties. At present there are vacancies for up to three groups from East Belfast and one each from South Belfast and North Down. Members present agreed to speak with representatives from appropriate organisations within which they have contacts to encourage applications. Mr Nuttall agreed to re-circulate recruitment documents as a reminder of the organisational requirements.

Action – Mr Nuttall; all Members

6. AIRPORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr McNair provided an update on business activity, including a graph depicting passenger numbers since January 2019. Key points discussed included the following:

- Passenger numbers are continuing on an upward trajectory since January this year with an encouraging forecast for the summer through to year end
- The recent increase in the range of airlines now operating out of GBBCA provides for strong levels of business resilience
- Load factors continue to increase
- Terminal concessionaires are now ramping up opening hours with the increase in flights and passenger numbers
- The High Flyers apprentice programme continues to be successful with four apprentices in post at present
- There is continued investment in the IGNITE youth leadership programme as it moves into its fourth year.

Mr McCaughan congratulated GBBCA on the success of the IGNITE programme.

8. AIRPORT STATISTICS

Mr McNair highlighted the contents of the statistics report including data for 2020, 2021 and 2022 (to date) across the following measures: total ATMs, ATMs by route, ATMs post-21:30, noise concerns, passenger numbers, flights over Belfast Lough, and current operating routes.

Mr McNair pointed out the importance of viewing extension numbers in the context of overall flight numbers. This year to date, extensions have only applied to 0.4% of movements. He also referred to the variety of routes either operating already or coming into operation over the summer, including an additional EasyJet route to Liverpool.

Those present agreed with Mr Doherty's suggestion of including 2019 statistics in the report – as the most useful means of comparison with past performance. Mr Nuttall to include in future reports.

Mr McCaughan asked what proportion of departing passengers were bound for transfer to further destinations. Mr McNair replied that only those travelling to Amsterdam represented a significant number of onward transfers. Mr McCaughan asked how GBBCA's rate of recovery compared with that of Dublin Airport. Mr McNair replied that all airports are now showing signs of growth.

Action – Mr Nuttall

8. PROPOSED GLOSSARY

Mrs Edwards introduced a proposed glossary of terms covering a range of terms used both at GBBCA and in wider aviation circles, in particular to assist any new Forum members. All agreed that this should be progressed as a useful document. Members are asked to review and pass any suggestions for changes or additional terms to Mr Nuttall.

Action - All

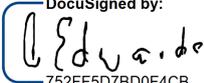
9. AOB

Mr Doherty suggested that the Forum constitution should be amended to allow for issues such as Member voting during online meetings, should these continue to be necessary.

Action – Mr Nuttall

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date to be confirmed.

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