

GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT FORUM
Minutes of Meeting No 100
Held on Tuesday 11 June 2024 at 7.30pm
VENUE: Conference Room 1, BCA

Attendees:

Mark Doherty (MD)	Belfast Harbour Commissioners
Carol Edwards (CE)	Forum Chair
Alan Andrews (AA)	Hollywood Residents' Association
Michelle Hatfield (MH)	Belfast City Airport
Councillor Padraig Donnelly (PD)	Belfast City Council
Daniel V McCaughan (DM)	Cultra Residents' Association
Alderman Alan Graham (AG)	Ards and North Down Borough Council
Councillor Davy Douglas (DD)	Belfast City Council
David McCambley (DMcC)	Belfast City Council
Hannah Brown (HB)	Consumer Council

In Attendance:

Ian Nuttall (IN)	Belfast City Airport
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1. APOLOGIES AND OPENING REMARKS

Apologies were received from -

Kathy Graham	Deputy Forum Chair (ESG Chair)
Councillor David Rossiter	Ards and North Down Borough Council
David Courtenay	Department for Infrastructure
Michelle Kelly	Consumer Council

It was noted that Richard Williams has recently retired from the Consumer Council and will be replaced on the Forum by Michelle Kelly (at this meeting HB represented the Consumer Council). It was agreed that a card should be sent to Richard from the Chair, thanking him for his long-standing participation and support for the Forum.

Action – IN, CE

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Members accepted the minutes of the meeting on 30 January 2024 as accurate.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None.

4. RECRUITMENT OF COMMUNITY GROUPS

IN explained that an application to join the Forum has been received from Short Strand Community Forum and is under consideration pending further discussion with the group.

CE proposed that the Forum constitution should be reviewed, particularly to provide additional guidance on the expected role of Members.

It was agreed that Members would circulate the Constitution for comment, following which a smaller group would be agreed to take the review forward ahead of the next meeting.

DD offered to check for interested East Belfast groups to approach for potential membership; IN to provide relevant recruitment material.

AG suggested that groups should be required to appoint a deputy representative to ensure participation at meetings.

Action – IN, All

5. AIRPORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MH presented a report including the following key points:

Business Update

- Total departing passengers to date (Jan - May 2024) is 460.8k
- BCA has been named UK's most punctual airport for the whole of 2023
- EasyJet to Alicante and Palma de Mallorca routes starting summer 2024
- BCA is the only UK airport to have made the shortlist at Routes Europe Awards
- Extensions January – April 2024 were up 25% on the previous year; down 45% against 2019
- Successful Health, Safety & Security Week delivered in May
- First NI airport to achieve ACA Level 3 Carbon Accreditation
- First NI airport to provide electric vehicle charging points for passengers
- Sustainability Strategy development complete, to be published on website later in the year (IN to circulate)
- Net Zero roadmap submitted to ACI Europe
- Launch of a new internal communications app to facilitate more instant communication with all staff and encourage collaboration, feedback and ideas
- Welcomed three new apprentice Firefighters - two female and one male; in addition hosted several successful open recruitment days.

Community Engagement

- 2024 community calendar – many events and workshops planned throughout the remaining months of the year
- Community fund will be re-opening for applications later in the year
- Air Ambulance NI appointed BCA's Charity partner of the year (2024/25); BCA hosting a Runway Run on the 12th of September to raise funds for AANI
- For the eighth consecutive year, BCA is principal sponsor of the annual Eastside awards, January 2025
- The fifth year of our highly successful Ignite Young Leadership Programme is coming to an end with the graduation ceremony taking place in June
- BCA ran the first of the latest series of Autism in the Air events in May in

- collaboration with Dr Nichola Booth from Queens University
- BCA is currently working towards achieving a Diversity Mark Accreditation.

Members were provided with a paper detailing the above points.

MH answered questions from Members about the Community Fund, explaining that the Fund makes use of fines imposed on airlines for operations during extended hours and provides support for a variety of community-based projects in and around Belfast including charitable donations to groups and, in some cases, individuals.

IN to circulate application criteria and website link for details once Community Fund re-opens.

AA asked if there had been further consideration given to inviting Translink to join the Forum; IN and MH to review.

HB asked about progress on installation of the new Standard 3 security measures; MH explained that this is now expected to be completed by the autumn.

HB indicated that the Consumer Council had received a complaint about the lack of signage to highlight the ten-minute free period in the Long Stay car park. MH explained that further signage was due to be installed.

Action – IN, MH

6. AIRPORT STATISTICS

IN provided details of BCA performance, as set out in the Statistics Paper provided to Members.

7. AOB

Members asked about the impact of a potential Aer Lingus pilots' strike. MH explained that any strike would not apply to Aer Lingus Regional flights operated by Emerald Airlines. HB explained that in the event of a strike leading to cancelled flights the responsibility to offer refunds or alternative travel arrangements would lie with the airline taking industrial action.

AG asked if it would be possible to arrange an Airport visit for Ards and North Down Borough Council members; MH would be happy to facilitate.

Action – IN, MH

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date to be confirmed.

Signed:  Date: 23-07-2024 | 12:17 BST
Carol Edwards, Forum Chair