**GLASGOW AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the 186th Quarterly Meeting held by Microsoft Teams

on Monday 18 October 2021 at 10.00 am

The Chairman welcomed all to the 186th Glasgow Airport Consultative Committee meeting.

**Minute of the previous meeting**

The Minutes were circulated in advance.

The Minutes were agreed.

**ACP Update**

There was a comprehensive update on Airspace Change Programme

The changes will affect airlines, general aviation airspace users, military as well as individuals and organisations. It is anticipated that the final consultation and submission to the CAA will be in 2023 with implementation in 2024.

Stage 1 is complete. Stage 2 is underway and began with a very clean sheet looking at all routes. A list of design options has been produced giving various options. They cover things like noise, efficiency, spread of noise etc. This will go to stakeholders with a full

explanation – this is not a consultation but an engagement and it will happen late November/early December.

The timescale is set by regulation so that won’t change. It also has to fit with the overall programme. We have not applied any feedback from the previous consultation. [ ] asked if the options looked similar to what they were before. [ ] advised that our approach has been different this time. There are some similarities but others are very much different.

[ ] advised that there will be a very high degree of interest from his area. He had had reports from some people saying that they thought the new routes were being used already and asked if this was the case. [ ] advised that communication with people would be at Stage 3 in 2023. It will have more options than previously. The design principles are key as they state our objectives and our priorities. We will work to them and base assessment on that. As regards aircraft using new routes earlier – we are not legally allowed to change routes without going through this very stringent process. During COVID there has been very little traffic and now there is more, people forget what it was like previously. The aircraft tracking and noise system is still running.

The Chairman said that the Airspace Change Programme is very big throughout the UK at the moment. It is a long process and nothing will change for another three years.

The Chairman advised that the ICAN organisation was abolished at the end of September. It has apparently been taken over by the CAA.

The Chairman said none of the aircraft routes/tracks will change before consultation is finished. Nothing has been changed strategically or from an airspace change position. It is likely to be 2024/25 before anything happens.

[ ] said that for our next meeting she would welcome the opportunity to give a presentation on the Noise Insulation Scheme being re-launched in Q1 next year. *[postponed to the April 2022 meeting]* They are also looking to form a Noise Forum at the next meeting. Due to the lack of aircraft flying over the past 18 months we were unable to carry out the pilot scheme for Noise Insulation as originally planned. It is currently out to tender. We intend to open the scheme for applications in February 2022 and it will be open for 3 months. She will be happy to give us further details at our meeting in January 2022. She agreed to send The Chairman information to circulate online. The Chairman commended this scheme which is promoted by the airport and which they have no legal obligation to do.

**Traffic Report and General Update**

Total passenger numbers in the 3 months to 30 September 2021 were up 97% on the same quarter last year – 755k against 382k last year. Domestic traffic continues to perform well albeit against a backdrop of depleted frequency from 2019, e.g. Heathrow is around 50% or normal frequency at the moment. Domestic passengers for the quarter were over 0.5m which is up 147% on the same quarter in 2020. This was driven by BA on Belfast City and Heathrow plus strong domestic EasyJet loads. International passengers were up 55k against same quarter in 2020. International travel starting to show signs of growth during the back end of the quarter as more routes re-started and Turkey came off the red list. We expect the improvement to continue during October especially as EasyJet will launch Tenerife this month followed by Las Palmas in November, both twice weekly. [ ] outlined announcements made during the quarter.

Regarding COVID restrictions, Councillor [ ] asked who is responsible for implementing them, e.g. is it the airlines?

[ ] advised that, based on Government guidelines, it is up to the airline operators to implement rules for passengers in their aircraft. Mr [ ] confirmed this.

The Chairman asked if the Scottish Government is likely to follow suit re Day 2 test and is the Scottish COVID passport going to be recognised? [ ] advised that the Scottish Government has relieved some restrictions but they are still using PCR tests.

[ ] advised there were a total of 21 recorded birdstrikes in the third quarter of 2021, two of which were recorded as high/medium strikes. Increased bird activity throughout the year due to lack of flights during COVID has been a problem. We continue to cull where necessary – 45 birds of 7 species in July and 61 in August. The biggest problem now will be geese which we are continually shifting from the airport.

There were 34 noise complaints from July to September. However, there are a lot more flights this year following the lifting of travel restrictions. We will see a new part of the tracking system which will show where the aircraft are actually flying.

There have been no runway incursions in the third quarter of 2021 which continues the great achievement of none this year.

In reply to a question from [ ] advised that when farmers start turning their fields this is a big attraction to geese. We have a 3rd party person who works with us and the farmers. We do our best to control it but it proves very challenging.

Councillor [ ] asked if Airside driver instruction was still being impeded by COVID. [ ] advised that this was now back to normal. In any event our numbers are restricted. We have 3 dedicated airside drivers and we are pretty much back to where we were.

[ ] advised of a model aircraft flying club near Auchinloch which he had become aware of. He wondered if this was of interest or concern to aircraft. [ ] thanked [ ] for this information – it was good for us to have and we are working very closely with Police Scotland and Police Air Safety Team. For COP26 we are moving to a different status.

[ ] advised that September was the worst month for queue times. We are working closely with ITCS to address this and there were significant improvements in the first half of October.

Preparations are well underway for COP26. The Chairman wished the airport well in all of this.

[ ] referred to the football team movements in July for the Euro2020 football competition on which we received great feedback. He also advised that we had 15k passengers per day last week which was the October school week.

As with most industries at present we are having difficulty getting staff but we have recently welcomed four seasonal staff members as Airport Ambassadors Taxi drivers are returning to their jobs. The Boeing exhibition was a great event and great to be part of.

There was a complaint raised over the standard of cleaning in the ladies toilets. [ ] advised that this was passed on to the team immediately. The Airport Duty Manager does cleaning audits during the day. They are looking to backfill 8 people on the nightshift but they had no females applying for this and they are struggling to get cleaners.

[ ] asked about furlough and wondered how many of its staff the airport managed to keep. [ ] advised that the airport has retained everyone on furlough in 2021. In 2020 we operated a voluntary redundancy scheme.

[ ] advised that retailers made people redundant at the beginning of lockdown. Units are re-opening and the plan is to open more from Summer 2022 as passenger numbers recover. The Rangers store opened in August and the new Burger King unit opened at the end of September both of which were received well by staff and passengers.

[ ] asked what was happening with the airport lounge. [ ] advised that the BA Lounge is now open and the airport has now switched from the Lomond Lounge to the Upper Deck Lounge. There is no indication of the Emirates Lounge opening any time soon but this may change when the daily flights resume.

Councillor [ ] asked if the supply chain problem was going to last for a long time and whether aviation fuel was a problem just now. Mr [ ] said that the issues are with the drivers. We have a good supply of fuel just now so we are ready for COP26.

The Chairman thanked [ ] for their contribution. Hopefully in January we will be much busier and back to normal.

The Chairman advised that Terminal 2 testing is a very efficient process – a good service which has to be done for as long as necessary.

The Chairman advised that Professor Robin Leake has decided that he wished to retire from the Committee. He would like to record our thanks to him for his long and very positive contribution to the Committee.

The Chairman advised that he will be talking to the airport team following this meeting in order to get the Minutes on the website for the April and July meetings. *[now done]*

There is a proposal floating around that the GACC should be called something other than Consultative Committee. The Chairman is not sure there is a necessity to change.

The Chairman is hopeful that the meeting on 24 January will be ‘in person’. He appreciates the contribution from everyone.

Councillor [ ] reminded the Chairman that the FlightPath Fund has now re-launched and is looking for applications. £70k is being made available at the meeting on 11 November. The Chairman thanked Glasgow Airport for funding the FlightPath Fund.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is on Monday 24 January 2022.

Top of Form