

STANSTED AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Report on Activities for the period June 2015 - June 2016

STACC

The Committee met on four occasions. During the year, the Committee welcomed three new members - Julie Jones (non business and leisure interests); Richard Burrett (environmental interests) and Danny Purton (Harlow Council). It was also brought to the Committee's attention that the Hertfordshire Association of Local Councils had now taken over the role of the East Hertfordshire Association of Local Councils. Pending the consequential amendment to reflect this change to the Committee's Constitution at its June Annual Meeting, Angela Alder has attended as an observer.

Given the growth of the airport - in 2015 the airport saw its busiest period of passenger throughput (22.56 million passengers) since 2007 as well as growth in cargo tonnage - the Committee continued to take a keen interest in how the airport would respond in terms of passenger facilities, surface access and in mitigating any adverse environmental impacts on the local community.

The Committee received regular and informative presentations from Border Force. In particular, there were regular reports on how the increased passenger flow was being managed and what arrangements had been put in place to manage future increases.

At its April meeting, the Committee noted a joint report from the airport and the STACC Chairman on the development of the Customer Service Strategy. A key issue was how the Committee - especially UEG - might play a role in the evolution of the Strategy.

At the January meeting, the London - Stansted - Cambridge Consortium gave a presentation about its work and stressed the important role that the airport could play in the economic growth of both the area and region. Members subsequently attended a LSCC event held at the airport.

Other issues considered during the year included disposal of the airport's housing stock, Express Set Down and PRM issues.

In terms of Government consultations, the Committee submitted a response to the CAA consultation on surface access to airports.

The Committee has continued to develop a greater degree of financial transparency and separateness in its capacity as a 'critical friend to the airport management.

Sub Groups

Environmental Issues Group (EIG)

The Group continued to play an active role in waypoint trials using precision based navigation. These trials are designed to ensure greater accuracy of flight paths and so will reduce the number of people overflown. The Group worked alongside the airport, easyJet and NATS in the development of this work. The positive results show that up to 85% fewer

people are directly overflown by aircraft using this new flight path procedure. The Group noted that this work had been recognised nationally with the airport being awarded 'Best Individual Community Project' at the 2016 National CSR Awards for its pioneering community partnership initiative in reducing the impact of aircraft noise for over 4,000 people living close to the airport.

The Group also continued to be engaged with the airport management and Manchester Metropolitan University in developing alternative noise metrics. The twofold aim of this work was to develop improved metrics that would help local residents to have an easier understanding of local impacts as well as enabling the Group to provide informed input to future airspace developments.

The Group had regular informative updates from the airport management on a range of environmental issues as well as inputting to the development of the Corporate Responsibility Report. A continuing issue was the need to benchmark the airport against a range of comparators especially in the non aviation sector.

User Experience Group (UEG)

The Group has continued to monitor all developments affecting passengers using the airport. Wherever possible the Group has undertaken pre meeting tours to gain first-hand experience. On a number of occasions, this has resulted in issues being identified and improvements introduced for the benefit of passengers.

An emerging issue was the airport's Customer Service Strategy where the Group was keen to ensure that there was effective engagement with STAL as the Strategy was developed. The Group offered its assistance in helping to develop the Strategy

The Group regularly reviewed arrangements for PRMs using the airport to ensure that satisfactory and effective procedures were in place.

On immigration, the Group developed an effective re- engagement with Border Force with a small group of UEG representatives having regular pre meetings to gain greater insight into key issues.

The Group continued to monitor the Airport's Express Set Down scheme to ensure that the scheme met the needs of both passengers and local residents

On rail issues, the Group worked with key stakeholders including the airport to encourage initiatives to enhance the quality of the West Anglia Main Line. The Group's Chairman continued to represent the Committee on the Stansted Airport Transport Forum.

The Group had also received an informative presentation on air freight from MAG. This provided very helpful background information on freight operations at the airport.

The Group undertook a visit to Dublin Airport in December to help assess how Stansted compared with other airports. Dublin Airport had been cited as a leading comparator airport. The visit had provided valuable insight and would help inform the Group's work. A further visit to Birmingham Airport had been planned for May but would now take place later in the year.

Corporate Affairs Group (CAG)

There were no issues of such significance that merited holding special meetings of the Group. Relevant major issues were either considered by the two other Working groups or by STACC itself . CAG met recently to consider two formal pieces of business namely the the draft STACC Budget for 2016/7 and the Group's Work Programme.

Frank Evans
Secretary and Technical Adviser.