

## **STANSTED AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

### **Report on Activities for the period June 2017 - June 2018**

#### STACC

The Committee met on four occasions. At the start of the year, the Committee welcomed a new Chairman - Shena Winning and a new STAL Chief Executive Officer - Ken O'Toole. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the valuable service provided by the previous post holders - Stewart Ashurst and Andrew Cowan. During the year, the Committee welcomed one new member - Simon Walsh (Essex County Council). The Committee also held an AwayDay in August 2017 at which Members considered the future strategic direction of its work programme.

Given the airport's continued growth and planned expansion, the Committee maintained a keen interest in how the airport would respond in managing the increased passenger throughput in terms of passenger facilities and in mitigating any adverse environmental impacts on the local community. A particular concern was the impact that the expansion would have on surface access provision. Accordingly a joint EIG/UEG meeting was arranged to consider the issue. This resulted in a paper being submitted and approved by STACC which recommended that a research study be commissioned and that the Committee should submit a neutral response highlighting the surface access issue to the airport's planning application to Uttlesford District Council requiring MAG to recognise Stansted's responsibility as a major transport interchange and that a surface access strategy should be developed to facilitate that.

The issue of land compensation was discussed regularly throughout the year in response to concerns raised by local residents. Recognising this concern the Committee had encouraged the airport to act as expeditiously as possible to settle claims. As a result, the issue was discussed in depth at a number of meetings of the Corporate Affairs Group. Following these meetings, the airport had taken a number of actions. These included seeking to contact all claimants and issuing a revised guide to residents. The airport also undertook to consider claims from former residents. It was also agreed that the deadline date for claims would be extended to July 2019. The Committee would continue to monitor the situation closely.

The Committee also received a number of helpful and informative presentations. These covered a number of areas including the terminal transformation project, weather disruption arrangements and the new Stansted Airport College (which was due to open in September 2018).

The airport also presented its annual noise complaints report. This showed that complaints had risen by 102% to 8411 in 2017 compared with the previous year. It was noted that 71% of complaints were made by 5% of total complainants. It was suggested that the increase in complaints was attributable to both the general increase in traffic and the NATS sponsored Dover/Clacton route switch.

## **Working Groups**

### **Corporate Affairs Group**

In addition to the regular discussions on the land compensation issue in response to the remit from STACC, the Group also discussed the airport's scoping document for their planning application.

### **Environmental Issues Group**

The Group continued to liaise actively with the airport on the development of precision based navigation trials which were designed to ensure greater accuracy of flight paths and so reduce the number of people overflown. The year saw the Irish aeronautical authorities finally grant Ryanair with the necessary approvals to enable the airline to participate fully in the trial. Given the success of PBN the Group has begun to look at other departure routes where the procedure might bring benefits to local residents.

The Group continued to liaise with the local community relating to their concern about the adverse impact of NATS switching flights from the Dover to the Clacton route. This switch had increased the number of flights over their residents. The Group noted that they had been opposed to the change at the time of the original NATS consultation and had made a submission to this effect. Since then the Group had written further to the CAA urging that the route switch be reversed. However much to the Group's disappointment, the CAA has yet to take action to reverse the change. The Group will continue to monitor the situation.

The Group has received regular informative updates from the airport management on a range of environmental issues. The Group had hoped to progress its benchmarking work to measure the airport's environmental performance against a range of comparators both in the aviation and the non aviation sector. However it had not proved possible so far to define a project.

### **User Experience Group**

The Group 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 had resulted in issues being identified and improvements introduced for the benefit of passengers.

The airport has engaged with the Group on both the arrivals hall and the terminal transformation projects and been given presentations. It has been agreed that the airport will provide the Group with regular updates on progress.

The Group has monitored arrangements for PRMs using the airport to ensure that satisfactory and effective procedures are in place. The Group is represented on the airport's Disability Forum and closely liaises with the Forum.

On immigration, the Group has continued to maintain a constructive dialogue with Border Force and met regularly with local BF officials.

On surface access issues, the Group's Chairman has continued to represent the Committee on the Steering Group of the Stansted Airport Transport Forum. A number of the Group's representatives attended the Annual Meeting of the Forum at which the rail and bus operators outlined their future plans. As mentioned above there was a joint EIG/UEG meeting to consider surface access issues arising from the airport's planning application with the aim of developing a research project.

Given the growth of cargo services at the airport, the Group also received an informative presentation on current and future freight developments.

A number of Members of the Group attended a meeting of the Manchester Airport Consultative Committee (MACC). In addition to seeing how other Committees operated, Members were able to have useful discussions with their MACC colleagues.

## **Other activities**

The Chairman and Secretary and Technical Adviser represented STACC at the Annual Meeting of Airport Consultative Committees Liaison Group consisting the major 21 airports in the UK.

During the year, the Secretary and Technical Adviser represented the Committee at a number of Department for Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority expert group meetings.

**Secretary and Technical Adviser  
Stansted Airport Consultative Committee  
June 2018**