

STANSTED AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

CORPORATE AFFAIRS GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 MAY 2019 AT ENTERPRISE HOUSE STANSTED AIRPORT

ATTENDANCE

Shena Winning - Chairman
Rufus Barnes
Simon Walsh
Graham McAndrew
Danny Purton
Haydon Yates
Jackie Cheetham
Frank Evans - Secretary and Technical Adviser

David Lewy - STAL (in attendance)

AGENDA

1. Apologies

Brian Ross

2. Minutes of previous meeting

It was noted that the STACC meeting on 24 April had received and endorsed the Minutes of the CAG meeting held on 15 February.

3. DfT Green Paper consultation future aviation strategy

a. It had been agreed at STACC on 24 April that CAG should meet to consider how the Committee might respond to the consultation. The Secretary and Technical Adviser had prepared an initial draft response for consideration by the meeting. Background papers had also been made available for Members.

b. Members welcomed the draft response and considered that should form the basis of the Committee's response. In discussion it was felt that there were a number of areas that could be amended. These included :-

- the response should provide a broad overview as well as covering specific issues;
- It was important that the consultation should result in a national strategy document and not focus on Heathrow;
- The response should reflect a sustainable approach balancing all the impacts
- It needed to be recognised that consultative committees did not have any executive powers and this affected the extent to which they could act as a critical friend.
- In some areas, there was a need for central government to act as a co-ordinator and facilitator. For example given the recognition that airports operated as regional transport hubs, there were a number of different stakeholders involved in providing surface access. A co-ordinated approach was needed as well as a recognition of existing commitments following commissions and studies. A key issue identified was the use of third party (foreign) investment.
- Similarly measures to mitigate climate change as proposed by the Committee on Climate Change should be supported but these measures needed to be developed on a national rather than local basis;
- As airports sought to expand, the implications for surface access needed to be fully assessed to ensure that they remained fit for purpose. The airport currently had a high Public Transport Rate of over 50% and the airport would face a challenge in maintaining this rate as the number of passengers increased.
- Consideration should begin to using Stratford as a another transport hub for the airport.
- there was a need to consider the current operation of consultative committees and whether there was a need for the Government to issue revised guidelines.

c. The Group then received a presentation from STAL on the likely direction of their response to the consultation. It would take the form of a MAG response with chapters on each airport. The response would cover four main areas - the importance of regional connectivity; surface access (a proactive approach was needed from Government which would help the development of integrated solutions for airports especially in the light of passenger growth) ; the passenger charter and APD (there was concern as to the impact of this tax on competition (particularly with European airports))

d. It was agreed that the Secretary and Technical Adviser should revise the draft response in the light of Members' comments and circulate an amended version.

4. Future Direction of the Committee

a. Members considered a paper by the Chairman. It had been planned to have an initial discussion at the April STACC meeting but time constraints had prevented this. It was proposed that the Committee might commission a socio economic study, identifying the geographic regions, the stakeholders and communities. A key task would be to determine the scope of the study and assess what information was already held by local authorities. local and national businesses etc. Local plans were being or had been developed which were likely to contain relevant information for the study.

b. As a first step it was agreed that the Chairman would convene a small group of Members to consider further.

5. STACC Membership

a. The Chairman advised the meeting that a number of Members would be standing down from the Committee. Action was in hand to identify possible replacements. The opportunity was also being taken to consider the breadth of membership and whether any changes were appropriate.

b. The meeting agreed that there would be value in developing an induction programme for new Members. Members expressed a wish for an update programme for existing members. The Chairman advised that she would discuss further with the airport.