

## North Yorkshire County Council

### Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

7 November 2012

#### Covering report NYCC representatives on Airport Consultative Committee Reports

##### 1. Purpose of Report

This report asks the Committee to:

- a. Note the information in the report;
- b. Consider the reports of the North Yorkshire County Council representatives on the Airport Consultative Committees attached as Annex 1.

##### 2. Background

The Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive an annual report from the County Council's representatives on the Airport Consultative Committees of Durham and Tees Valley Airport, Leeds and Bradford Airport, Robin Hood Airport.

The NYCC representatives are as follows:

|                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Durham and Tees Valley Airport | County Councillor David Jeffels |
| Leeds and Bradford Airport     | County Councillor Cliff Trotter |
| Robin Hood Airport.            | County Councillor Chris Pearson |

Attached at Annex 1 are the reports for 2012. The representatives will present their report at the meeting.

##### 3. Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- a. Note the information in this report;
- b. Note the information in the reports of the NYCC airport consultative committees attached at Annex 1

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Date: October 2012  
Report presented by: Lorraine Laverton  
Background documents: None  
Annexes: Annex 1: Reports of the NYCC representatives on the Airport Consultative Committees

**DURHAM AND TEES VALLEY AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

Having attended all but one of the Airport's Consultative Committee meetings, I have noticed in the past year a determination by the management to reverse its fortunes and enable it to be more competitive with its nearest rival, Newcastle Airport.

I have told the management that I believe there is potential to increase its usage by more people living in the northern part of North Yorkshire because car parking is good, it is very easily accessible from the main road network, but on the down-side its facilities and duty free etc. need enhancing which would hopefully come with increased usage. Indeed, I find I can get to the airport where the consultative committee holds its meeting, quicker from Scarborough than I can to Leeds Bradford Airport.

Charter traffic volume has been down by 50 per cent compared with last year, and there were 67 per cent fewer charter flights in April and 46 pc fewer in May. However, the travel company TUI's service to Majorca has delivered good performance this summer with load factors up on 2011. In addition, flights to Jersey did well with sales ahead of last year. It was also encouraging to see KLM's on-line bookings for the Airport had increased.

The objective of the Airport Management is to encourage public confidence in the long term viability of the airport. The first phase of an improvement programme has been now been completed.

The airport is seeking a £5.9 m grant from the Regional Growth Fund to carry out further improvements to access and services which will include a new road to the estate, better access through the airport site, and a new highway around the end of the runway.

At its last meeting the consultative committee looked at the Government's new Draft Aviation Policy Framework produced by the Department of Transport. It was thought that regional airports had scope to expand which would benefit the economy of their areas. Generally speaking the committee endorsed the response of the UK Airport Consultative Committee. (UKACC). A series of meetings are being held nationwide (the nearest to North Yorkshire is Newcastle) by the DfT as part of a consultation exercise on the Draft Policy.

The consultative committee supported the view of UKACC that "UK aviation should be able to grow, but to do so, it must be able to play its part in delivering our environmental goals and protecting the quality of life of local communities." The committee also endorsed the three proposed key themes that should under-pin a future high level framework: (i) Aviation and the economy (ii) Aviation and Climate Change and (iii) Aviation and the Local Environment.

One of the roles of the consultative committee is to monitor complaints from people living in the vicinity of the Airport, especially on such issues as noise. It was quite amazing that one of the very few complaints made in the last quarter was from a resident complaining about the noise of - A SPITFIRE!

If anyone has any queries please let me know and I will endeavour to provide answers.

DAVID JEFFELS  
NYCC representative

## LEEDS & BRADFORD AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the activities of the Leeds & Bradford Airport Consultative Committee.

### **2.0 Introduction**

- 2.1 The consultative committee meet at Leeds and Bradford Airport 5 times per year. There are 28 people sitting on the Committee representing their local area.

### **3.0 About the airport**

The last year has been a very good year for the Airport seeing them achieve the top airport in the Country with over 3 million passengers in 2012.

- 3.1 A new terminal building has been built at a cost of £12m. It opened in May 2012 and includes a VIP room a top restaurant and various shops. There is also a new undercover walkway for passengers to take them to the aeroplanes. The company is also looking to develop a new terminal for servicing aircraft.
- 3.2 There are 8 new flight destinations and recent rumours that suggested Thomas Cook were pulling out of the airport have proved unfounded with them increasing their holiday destinations for winter holidays.
- 3.3 2013 will also see the addition of new destinations including Canada, India and Pakistan and this will lead to the airport receiving Boeing 777 and 747 aeroplanes.

### **4.0 Aircraft noise and flight tracking**

Regular items on the agenda are about the noise level experienced by neighbours of the airport. The Consultative Committee were informed that only 3 aircraft had exceeded the recommended noise levels.

- 4.1 The flight path of the aeroplanes is tracked as they come into the airport and 2012 saw 90% of aeroplanes not deviating from their flight path.

### **5.0 Passenger drop off point**

There has been much publicity surrounding the airports decision to introduce a £2 charge for dropping off passengers at the airport. The airport has allocated half of the long stay car park. 2 shuttle buses will be used to transfer passengers to the airport terminal.

### **6.0 Bus services to the airport**

The airport provides £400,000 funding to support bus services from Leeds and Harrogate.

### **7.0 And finally ..... Good news for Harrogate!**

The Harrogate conference trade will receive a boost as British Airways are planning 4 flights a day to and from London, Heathrow. With a proposal to start in December 2012.

## ROBIN HOOD AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

### 1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the activities of the Robin Hood Airport Consultative Committee.

### 2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The consultative committee meet at Robin Hood Airport quarterly. The committee is comprised of airport representatives; the local MP; the Mayor of Doncaster; District, Borough and County Councillors; Town and Parish Councillors, plus an ex officio member who chairs the meetings.

- 2.2 Besides the normal welcome, minutes and matters arising the committee receive the airport director's verbal report, the airport noise report, the marketing plan and various sub committee reports.

- 3.0 Since the Airport opened in 2005 the number of air traffic movements (ATM) increased in the first two years up until 2008 and since then there has been a steady decline. This has also been the situation with cargo ATM's. The airport has one of the longest runways in the country and can easily accommodate heavy cargo aircraft to transport goods to and from local industries.

- 4.0 The airport has suffered with the withdrawal of Easy Jet as a base who have almost exclusively concentrated on Luton.

- 5.0 Thompson holidays are still using Robin Hood as a base and fly a schedule service mainly to destinations in and around the Mediterranean.

- 6.0 The carrier Wizz Air flies a schedule service to cities in Poland.

- 7.0 Other carriers are Ryan Air, Flybe and Balkan Holidays.8. Thompson and First Choice have announced that from December 2012 they will be closing their information desks at the airport. They are finding that customers are using the WEB sites before heading to the airport to check relevant information.

- 9.0 It is noted that the airport is a departure and return airport and the staff would like to see passengers flying to Robin Hood to visit South, East and North Yorkshire, including York, and Lincolnshire. The attractions visitors may wish to see in North Yorkshire include Carlton Towers and Selby Abbey especially with its George Washington connection.

- 10.0 A new link road is planned to access the airport from Junction 3 of the M18 and is due to start this year with a completion in 2014. The link will provide a fast access from the centres of Doncaster and Sheffield and the M1 and A1 motorways.

- 11.0 A contemporary Hotel run by the Ramada group has been constructed on the airport site.

- 12.0 The committee are concerned at the present level of air passenger duty (APD) and members are encouraged to write to their MP on this matter. APD increased by double the inflation rate in the last budget and is due to rise again in 2013.

County Councillor Chris Pearson 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2012