

**North Yorkshire County Council****Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee****27 July 2016****Reports of the NYCC representatives on the Airport Consultative Committees****1. Purpose of Report**

To consider the reports of the North Yorkshire County Council representatives on the Airport Consultative Committees attached as Annex 1.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives an annual report from the County Council's representatives on the Airport Consultative Committees of Durham Tees Valley Airport, Leeds Bradford Airport and Robin Hood Airport.
- 2.2 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
- 2.3 Attached at Annex 1 are the reports for 2015/16 from County Councillor David Jeffels and County Councillor Chris Pearson.

**3. Recommendations**

The Committee is recommended to note the information in the reports of the NYCC airport consultative committees attached at Annex 1.

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Background documents: None

Annexes: Annex 1: Reports of the NYCC representatives on the Airport Consultative Committees

## **Durham Tees Valley Airport Consultative Committee**

### **County Councillor David Jeffels**

I have attended meetings of the Committee in the past year except when it coincided with an official duty while I was Chairman of NYCC.

The airport is just over the North Yorkshire Board, near Yarm. It is well placed to serve North Yorkshire, being close to the major road network of A19 and A1. Unfortunately it does not attract the level of business its location deserves because of the relatively close proximity of Newcastle Airport.

As a result the number of airlines using the airport is relatively small, although talks have been held with as many as 20 airlines to try to encourage them to consider using it. It has seen new services introduced to Italy by Newmarket Holidays in recent months, and KLM, the Dutch Airline has seen an increase in traffic of 5 per cent.

Peel Airport Board which runs the airport has a new chairman who has given an assurance that the company intends to operate it for at least five to 10 years, Latest figures show that airlines using the airport, KLM, Eastern, Flybe, and Newmarket have carried 22,203 passengers in the past year, and there have also been charter flights carrying 416 passengers.

Traffic in the past year was up 0.65% on the previous year and up on budget. This growth is attributed to KLM. Flybe's Channel Islands Service, Newmarket Holidays and non-budgeted flying all contributed small volume increases.

One of the responsibilities of the Consultative Committee is to monitor aircraft noise complaints and these have only been a handful so far this year.

A planning application to build 300 homes on land adjoining the airport is being pursued for permission, which, if successful, will enable the airport to invest in hangar improvements.

James Wharton MP, the Minister with responsibility for the Northern Powerhouse as well as being a North East MP, recently addressed the committee and gave a helpful appraisal (this was a meeting which I could not attend).

Following a very successful Air Show staged at the airport on the May Bank Holiday Monday, which attracted 13,000 people, another show is planned for the same weekend next year. It had the benefit of enhancing the image of the airport and its potential expansion in the future.

The Peel management is continuing to encourage more airlines to opt to use Durham Tees Valley Airport which has much to offer the business and public passengers of North Yorkshire and County Durham.

If any Member has any queries please let me know and I will endeavour to ascertain answers.

C. Cllr David Jeffels

## **Robin Hood Doncaster Sheffield Airport Consultative Committee – Activity Update 2015**

### **County Councillor Chris Pearson**

The Airport Consultative Committee meets at Robin Hood Airport on a quarterly basis. The Committee is comprised of airport representatives; the local MP; District, Borough and County Councillors; Town and Parish Councillors, plus an *ex officio* member who Chairs the meetings.

Besides the normal welcome, minutes and matters arising, the Committee receives the Airport Director's verbal update report on passenger numbers, cargo movements, new routes, marketing and activities taking place within the terminal building.

On 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015, Robin Hood Airport celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary operating as a commercial entity. 2015 also marked 10 years' for the Airport Consultative Committee acting as a facilitator between the airport and the local community.

#### **Development Plans:**

The Committee receives regular updates about the development plans of the Airport including airlines' operations.

Official figures released from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) had shown that Robin Hood Airport was officially the fastest growing airport in the North of England, with a 9.1 percent rise in passengers over the last twelve months (to March 2015).

During the first quarter of 2015, passenger numbers were up by 30 percent. At this time a total of nine new routes had been introduced at the airport in the last 12 months including Bucharest, Riga, Zante and Dublin with onwards transatlantic connectivity to New York, Boston, Chicago and Toronto.

Robin Hood Airport had been voted the 'Best Small Airport in the North 2015' by an annual Which? Magazine member survey. The airport had achieved five-star ratings in four key categories, specifically around queues at security, space around security, seating provision and distance to boarding gates.

Thomson had announced that they would be increasing capacity at Robin Hood Airport through the introduction of two new routes during summer 2016 to Larnaca (Cyprus) and Heraklion (Crete).

Robin Hood Airport had announced eight new routes with Flybe, which include two hub feeder services to Paris and Amsterdam, offering global connectivity. This will benefit businesses from across the region. From 27 March 2016, Flybe will serve the following network from Robin Hood Airport; Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin, Jersey, Newquay, Malaga, Alicante and Faro.

The Airport was expecting double-digit growth in 2016 with the additional seats and growth from other incumbent carriers expected to take passenger figures from 900,000 in 2015 to 1.35 million in 2016.

Wizzair continued to expand its routes from Robin Hood, and had recently announced both a new destination, Cluj Napoca in Romania, and capacity growth on existing routes during 2016.

Cargo traffic continues to increase at the airport, in the current financial year (2015/16), up to December 2015; there had been growth of 264.7%. There had been just short of 3.0 million kilos of freight transported in the current financial year, versus 800 kilos of freight transported in the financial year 2014/15. The Cargo Team at Robin Hood Airport continues to work hard to develop relationships with a number of carriers, brokers and freight forwarders.

The Finningley and Rossington Regeneration Route Scheme (FARRRS), a direct link road to the airport from Junction 3 of the M18 will become fully operational at the end of February 2016. The road will considerably reduce journey times between the airport and Sheffield to 25 minutes and reduce most journeys by 15-20 minutes.

In December 2015, it was announced that the Peel Group had launched Aero Centre Yorkshire to the UK property marketplace. The new brand represents the wide range of development opportunities now available surrounding Robin Hood Airport, attracting inward investment and job creation to the Sheffield City Region.

The Committee had been kept abreast of the Airport's marketing plans. Marketing is high on the agenda and the marketing budget had been increased to accommodate this.

From a tourism perspective, the Committee has been involved in meetings between the Airport and representatives from the Pilgrim Fathers Origins Association, who are planning a major event in 2020.

Back in February 2015, the Committee was pleased to support an announcement from the Vulcan to the Sky Trust and Aviation Skills Partnership that they planned to create a Vulcan Aviation Academy and Heritage Centre at the airport, with the Vulcan as its focal point. The new state of the art facility would provide a centre of excellence to the aviation industry for education and skills training, delivered in partnership with the region's education groups and local authorities.

## **Noise Monitoring**

The Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee continue to monitor the implementation of the Quiet Operations Policy. The number of complaints about aircraft noise during the year was limited, with just a few complaints' comments making up the bulk of the totals.

## **Air Passenger Duty**

Air Passenger Duty remains a topic of great debate; the Airport has called for a national policy on Air Passenger Duty (APD) across all English airports.

C Cllr Chris Pearson  
NYCC Rep on Robin Hood Doncaster Sheffield Airport Consultative Committee