

GLASGOW PRESTWICK AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
192nd QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON 8th September 2017,
Meeting Room 1, GLASGOW PRESTWICK AIRPORT

Present

Gavin Money	Chair
George Smith	Co-opted Member (Vice Chair)
James Riach	Prestwick South Community Council (Treasurer)
Jim McCall	Co-opted Member(Cargo)
Richard Searle	Passenger Representative
William McAlpine	Passenger Representative
Helen McBride	Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Jim Johnstone	South Ayrshire Council
Councillor Ian Grant	East Ayrshire Council
Councillor Angela Stephen	North Ayrshire Council

In Attendance

Derek Banks	GPA
Kirsten Sweeney	Marketing & Communications Director
Nigel Wallace	Secretary to GPACC

Apologies

Eddie Allison	Orbital Access
Councillor Ian Cochrane	South Ayrshire Council
Annique Armstrong	Visit Scotland
Douglas Kirkpatrick	SW Trans/Dumfries & Galloway Council
Sharon Hodgson	East Ayrshire Council
Andrew McNair	North Ayrshire Council

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed those present to the 192nd Quarterly meeting of Glasgow Prestwick Airport Consultative Committee.

2. Apologies

The apologies received were noted. Following local elections, notification of replacement Councillors had only just been confirmed.

3. Minutes of the 191st Meeting held on 9th June 2017

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as read.

4. Matters Arising

Councillor replacements following elections: Replacement Councillor nominations from Dumfries and Galloway have yet to be notified to the Secretary. The 3 Ayrshire Councils have nominated their members as follows:

North Ayrshire Council – Cllr Angela Stephen with reserve Cllr Donald Lees Reid

East Ayrshire Council - Cllr Ian Grant with reserve Cllr John McGee

South Ayrshire Council - Cllr Ian Cochrane with reserve Cllr Philip Saxton

Dumfries and Galloway Council - to be confirmed

Re-engaging with Membership: The Chairman's letter to GPACC member organisations is now to be circulated.

GPACC Website: The secretary reported that GPACC's website content has now been incorporated into GPA's website by the Communications team and the website is now live. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Ron Smith and Kirsten Sweeney for facilitating this.

Disability Forum Member: as discussed, at a number of previous meetings, GPACC are keen to have a member from the Disability Forum. It was agreed that the new Councillor members will approach the Forum for a suitable nomination.

Radar Site Visit: GPACC's familiarisation tour of radar facility will be postponed to March 2018 Meeting.

GPACC/GPA Liaison Meeting: The Chairman and Secretary met with the CEO, Ron Smith and Claire Sweeney. A number of matters regarding improved procedure and information flow between GPA and members of GPACC were agreed:

- Standing Agenda Items
- Pre-meeting circulation of CEO Report
- Programme of key Agenda Items – December 2017 – Strategic Plan
 - CapEx Plan
 - March 2018 - Business Development

5. Chief Executive's Report

Derek Banks, CFO, (standing in for Ron Smith), updated the Committee as follows:

Business Strategy:

Final approval of the 5 Year Strategic Plan by the Airport Company and HoldCo Board. Release to the public domain has been delayed. The launch will be at Holyrood. GPA is moving toward sustainability. The accounts are now approved – published end October 2017- show an improvement. 50% of £9m loss is CAPEX – CAPEX has to be written off over 12 months. Currently for this financial year GPA is ahead of budget. Management are confident GPA is on a clear path to improvement.

Activity

Passenger: Ryanair's Summer 2018 Schedule currently awaited. Number of flights have shown a small but steady increase.

Still pursuing new business in the form of City services with Ryanair and other operators.

Cargo: only specialised freight. No "belly-hold"

Military: 30% increase over last 3 years. Financial year 17/18 expect 20% increase.

Increased activity from "fuel stops" and "tech stops". 17 KC 135 Tankers in a month.

Having a dedicated resource working on military business has paid dividends in terms of increased activity.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Week

GPA hosted the Scottish International Aerospace STEM week at the end of August. GPA partnered with NATS, ADS Scotland, The SkyLab, South Ayrshire Council, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Enterprise and the University of the West of Scotland. STEM is a programme, involving 800 students from 27 schools, aimed at inspiring pupils with careers in the aviation industry. The event allowed pupils from across Central and the West of Scotland to participate in workshops, exhibitions and interactive sessions. The event was a great success receiving very positive feedback.

MRO

Chevron are currently recruiting.

Cluster Portfolio/ Floorspace

Currently GPA floorspace is 95% occupied. Transit House and Chevron have been let. Looking to build more floorspace in the near future.

Windfarms & Radar Solution

As reported previously the windfarm tolerant radar solution is now implemented.

Airspace Change

As reported at the January meeting GPA is currently undergoing an Airspace Change process in conjunction with NATs. This is an open process, requiring extensive public consultation, which is being undertaken by external consultants. The process may include changes needed for Spaceport and is supported by the three Ayrshire Councils. (see Agenda Item 6)

Heathrow Expansion - Logistics Hub

A further round of GPA discussions with Heathrow have been held with a meeting at Heathrow. GPA together with other partners have submitted a bid to be a Scottish supply partner to support the Heathrow expansion. Shortlisting by October 2017.

Spaceport

Spaceport continues to progress. GPA and Orbital Access have submitted a 'Bid' for Space Agency Funding for launch site. (see Agenda Item 8).

Discussion

In discussion on the possible effect of Brexit on GPA, airport management felt that there would be no real impact.

6. Airspace Change

Members will recall the NATS briefing to GPACC's June Meeting on the Airspace Change process and proposals for GPA. NATS are acting as consultants to GPA in the process.

The driver for the Airspace Change is the impending removal of current navigation aids. The process has involved a 13 week consultation starting 14th June through to 13th September 2017.

The 3 key CAA criteria are:

- Safety
- Efficiency

- Environmental – CO2 and noise

The proposal is to keep close to those routes currently used and where possible to avoid more populated areas.

A major part of the process is the public consultation, which is being run jointly by NATS; the BIG Partnership and GPA's Media Team.

The consultation has included a number of components – consultation document; website; exhibitions (GPA; Kilmarnock and Coylton); local press advertising; libraries; and briefings to elected representatives.

The Consultation Document, "Airspace Change Consultation Document", has now been given out at public exhibitions. In addition, 400 electronic copies have been supplied to stakeholders. In total, 60 people attended 3 events. Not surprisingly, the most interest was at the events held at GPA and Kilmarnock. The event at Coylton was poorly attended. So far there have been 16 responses and most of these are reasonably content with the changes proposed. Following close of Consultation on the 13th September a Consultation Report will be prepared to report on the process and feedback. This will be submitted to the CAA in Autumn 2017. It is expected that the CAA will make a decision in early 2018.

7. Audit Scotland, Follow Up Report on GPA

Ron Smith and Derek Banks have met with Audit Scotland, who are happy with progress. Transport Scotland's Audit Report will cover GPA.

8. Spaceport Funding Bids

Members will recall that decisions related to Spaceport approval is now a licencing regime rather than a 'Bid' process. Discussions with operators continue on the assumption that Spaceport will happen at GPA. Spaceport remains well supported by partners. GPA's bid for funding has now been submitted to the UK Space Agency. Expectations are currently that a decision will be made in early 2018. First launch is still expected from 2020.

A UK Space Flight Bill is expected to go to the UK Parliament in 2018.

9. Cabinet Secretary's Invitation

Ron Smith reminded the Committee that KB's secretary had been provided with 3 GPACC Meeting dates. The invitation has been accepted, but is not yet officially in the Minister's diary. At the moment, it looks likely that December is the preference. GPACC Members are encouraged to ensure a good turnout on the day. Letter to Members to ask what questions they would like to ask the Minister. Key Agenda items to be subject of further discussion between the Chair, Secretary and Ron Smith. A number of topics were suggested by members present including:

- What priority can GPA expect for rail service and station improvements for Scotland's only rail connected airport?
- Will there be an aviation strategy for Scotland and what role for GPA to make best use of existing aviation and particularly runway capacity?
- APD to be cut by 50% then 100% in Scotland. How will this work with the proposed scrapping of APD for airports below 3m passengers per annum?

- There are a number of quick wins for GPA which could be implemented at relatively low cost.

10. AOCB

Shelters for walkways from the Terminal building to car parking and bus stops needs to be reviewed.

Drunk Passengers: GPA have introduced a “Bouncer” to identify, talk to and intervene with groups of passengers. This action is aimed at early intervention to prevent problems before they emerge. There has been a drop off in incidents since this initiative was taken.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Consultative Committee is Wednesday, 10th January 2018 at 9.00 am

Nigel Wallace, Secretary, GPACC
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