Minutes of the meeting of the Edinburgh Airport Noise Review Panel (EANRP) on 28th September 2021

The meeting was held remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Attendees: Robert Carr, EACC Chair and Joint Convener of EANRP, Cllr Kevin Lang as EACC EANRP representative and Joint Convener of EANRP, Janice Hogarth as Secretary to the EACC (and minute taker for the EANRP), Lindsay Cole, the Chair of EANAB and member of EACC, and Ray Godfree, Pippa Plevin & Bruce Finlayson as EANAB EANRP representatives. Gordon Robertson as EAL Representative.

It had been agreed that Kevin Lang would chair this meeting and Robert Carr the following one.

Draft Minutes of the meetings of 30th August and matters arising

Kevin Lang asked if the draft minutes were acceptable after comments made by Bruce Finlayson had made given that the panel now had time to review these comments and they were agreed and there were no matters arising

Reflections on Gordon Robertson Draft Document

Kevin Lang thanked Gordon Robertson for his work on producing the document using the paper trail from previous meetings and comments as documented between Gordon Robertson and Janice Hogarth.

Pippa Plevin commented that the numbering of each sentence was over the top and should be removed from the final document for ease reading and this was agreed by all.

She added that there was no mention about community council representatives changing with elections and this would influence representation on the board. It also omitted how community councillors would be elected on to the board.

The questions of lobby groups and what happens with them was still unclear?

Bruce Finlayson added that there was a need to specify what we are saying with regard to the purpose of membership and he felt that we should discuss each item point by point.

Janice Hogarth felt that this document was a really positive start in brin ging the final recommendations to a conclusion.

Lindsay Cole agreed that there should be a better way of simplifying the process and making the document more readable.

It was generally agreed that the knowledge within community councils on noise was not good and that there needed to be a new structure to change this and create a better understanding.

Ray Godfree said that after 4 years little had been achieved in mitigating noise and he asked how EANAB could ever achieve that? (He felt that the position of the airport geographically was in the wrong place) He added that there was a need for quieter aircraft via engineering and technology.

Robert Carr talked about the relevancy of EANAB as an entity within the wider community and its need for improved recognition.

The make up was again questioned regarding how many representatives from one Community as well as lobby groups. This needs to be defined under a membership requirement.

The audience for this report will be EANAB/EACC and any interested party but it was pointed out that what actions had been taken during the report should also be taken into consideration as well as the issue of culture.

Gordon Robertson talked about the makeup of EANAB and who should be involved including lobby groups. He added that there should be room for them but that they had to be transparent in who they represented.

Kevin Lang asked that four years on and with little benefit to show was there still a place for EANAB?

The structure should reflect the feedback that the subgroups had worked well.

Purposes – this needs to reflect the role of EANAB to be seen clearly as managing noise but also covering ACP and flight paths.

Budget – this need to cover a negotiation and agreement around budgets

Complaints – this needs to leave an option for the Board to have access to an external referral body.

There was discussion on the need to talk about a model for all those represented with the best option as a small managed board for swifter outcomes and a group below that which would be open to all community council with the three main affected areas also sitting on the Executive Board.

Introduction - Robert and Kevin will write and introduction and circulate with next document.

Bruce Finlayson said that members did not agree on the meaning of the remit but Kevin Lang answered that this would need to be a consensus on what is achievable.

EAL should listed to EANAB and the communities and then the feedback should go back down the chain but EAL must take up the responsibility and follow things through.

Kevin Lang followed on by saying that the Board and EAL must decide what they will do with the recommendations as they were there as being useful but were not a prescriptive model.

Robert Carr asked Bruce Finlayson what questions he felt had been unanswered and asked him to remit these to the panel within the next 14 days and he also encouraged everyone else to add their input.

The remit was OK and the value statement was OK but how it is interpreted and put into action would be the next question.

In the meantime, EANAB should not stop the changes that they are already working on.

Kevin Lang suggested that everyone should have their chance to add any input to the document and should forward this to Gordon Robertson with and suggestions / issues or showing a list of unresolved issues by the week commencing 11th October

AOCB

The next meeting will take place on either Tuesday 19th or Tuesday 26th October (to be confirmed) will be chaired by Robert Carr.