

## EDINBURGH AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

Minutes of the 204<sup>th</sup> EACC meeting held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023  
at the Doubletree by Hilton – Edinburgh Airport

Present Robert Carr (Chair)  
Janice Hogarth (Secretary)  
Greg Maxwell (Head of Corporate Affairs EAL)  
Jonny Macneal (Head of Aviation EAL)  
Robert Fairnie (Digital Content Editor EAL)  
Kate Watt Ratho & District Community Council  
Adam Cumming Edinburgh Airport Amenities Group  
Derek McWhinnie Police Services Scotland  
David Dunphy Frequent Flyer Representative  
Sandy Leggett Air Traffic Services  
Clare Johnston Passenger PRM Representative  
Cllr Tom Conn West Lothian Council  
Cllr Dave Dempsey Fife Council  
Lindsay Cole Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board  
Donald Spencer The Consumers Association  
Brian Butler SEStran  
Dianne Stein Cramond & Barnton Community Council  
Dougie Main Unite

Apologies Gordon Dewar (Chief Executive EAL)  
Gordon Robertson (Communications Director EAL)  
Kate Nowakowska Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce (ECOC)  
Jimmy Martin ABTA  
Ken McNab SPAA  
Dougie Main Unite  
Cllr Carol Hamilton Scottish Borders Council  
Cllr Colin Cassidy Midlothian Council  
Sandy Leggett Air Traffic Services  
Cllr John McMillan East Lothian Council  
Stephen Robb Fife Chamber of Commerce  
Pamela Hull Kirkliston Community Council  
Cllr Kevin Lang City of Edinburgh Council

### 1. Welcome

Robert Carr advised the meeting that both Gordon Dewar and Gordon Robertson were unable to attend the meeting today but welcomed Brian Butler from SEStran to his first meeting and everyone along with two observers.

Robert then continued his opening comments by thanking Kate Watt for her help with the minutes for the February meeting and to Greg Maxwell for picking up and answering the outstanding points from the last meeting.

## **2. The minutes of the previous meeting**

The draft minutes of the Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were approved

## **3. Other matters arising from the Minutes**

Robert reviewed the items requiring actions from the last meeting.

Presentations would follow with an update from EAL on their Greater Good policy and Derek McWhinnie would give a presentation later on the role of the police at the airport

Progress with EANAB and the Review was ongoing as per the report from Lindsay Cole already circulated.

ACP progress would be covered by Greg.

The question of where the money raised from the pick-up and drop off charges went was confirmed as the Community Fund but it was suggested that more details should be provided.

The item raised by Kevin Lang at the previous meeting regarding how passengers travelled to and from the airport would be covered under the refreshed CEO Report.

Brian Butler advised the EACC that SEStran was developing a new Regional Transport Strategy (RTS). Brian kindly agreed to present on the RTS at the EACC August meeting. (**Action: Brian Butler to present on the new SEStran RTS at the EACC August meeting**)

## **4. Chief Executive's Report (EAL)**

### *Traffic figures*

On traffic figures Jonny Macneal advised the meeting that recovery was going well with the volume of flights increasing although the number of passengers was still behind 2019 and the seat factor was down.

International travel continued to increase with new and returning routes being added but domestic travel was still not recovering with BA still not flight operating from Edinburgh to Gatwick.

The number of night flight movements was still higher than before, but this was equivalent to one additional flight per day.

Qatar Airways had now started their double daily flights adding capacity to China.

Discussion had been started for Gatwick and Edinburgh Airport with the US authorities over the possibility of preclearance for US flights in the UK and this project was ongoing with more meetings scheduled for June.

David Dunphy commented that business travel was returning slowly with more face-to-face meetings taking place as people returned to office-based work patterns but there was still a way to go.

### *Capital Investment*

On Capital Investment Greg referred to the long list of capital investment initiatives that EAL was currently working on and highlighted in particular that going forwards two of the main items would be the continual work on the runway rehabilitation and also the terminal expansions plans.

He also intimated the changes that were coming with the new scanners which were first being introduced at London City which would mean that passengers no longer would need to remove liquids from their luggage for security clearance. This would be rolled out across all UK airports in time and Edinburgh were working towards that.

The use of electric buses for travel to and from the airport was already helping reduce carbon and the low carbon heat network was also making progress.

### *Community Investment*

Greg advised that he would revert to the EACC with the exact details of the money raised at the drop off area at the next meeting and he also confirmed that EAL did receive formal reports when asked by Adam Cumming. **(Action: Greg Maxwell to provide details of the money raised at the drop off area by the EACC August meeting)**

Clare Johnston asked about the level of consideration on design work at the airport considering accessibility for wheelchair users and how she could get involved in this. Robert suggested that Clare become a member of the Accessibility Forum. Greg would speak to Ross Gilpin who was leading on this for EAL, and in turn Ross would liaise with the new chair of the Accessibility Forum for Clare to become a member. In that way the EACC would have a direct independent link with the Accessibility Forum **(Action: Greg Maxwell to introduce Clare Johnston to Ross Gilpin with a view to Clare becoming a member of the Accessibility Forum by the EACC August meeting)**

Greg advised that an internship had been offered to a communications person.

### *Surface Access*

Greg commented that EAL was still looking to increase capacity for public transport especially for staff trying to get to and from work.

Greg advised that a new taxi provider had been appointed as Capital Cars who were now providing private hire and black cabs. He added that there was still a shortage of drivers but said that there had been 20,000 pickups since mid-April and things were going pretty well. The number of black cabs were increasing slowly.

Clare commented on the problems in trying to use the discount cards for taxis and agreed to pick this up. **(Action: Greg Maxwell to investigate the use of discount cards with Capital Cars for the EACC August meeting)**

### *Route Development*

Jonny Macneal reported that it was great to see that Delta would be adding another route to their portfolio in May to Atlanta (which they had not served since 2008).

There was a question asked about why Jet2 were not featured in the traffic figures. It was agreed that the CEO report be enhanced by providing more detail on routes operated by package holiday carriers. **(Action: EAL to include in the next CEO Report for the EACC August meeting and thereafter details of the routes operated by package holiday carriers.)**

David Dunphy also commented on the delays in getting through passport control with Border Force.

### *Passenger satisfaction*

Greg advised that all stats on these were now available on the website and that the in-house social media handling was creating better satisfaction in both areas which was enhanced with dedicated ground handlers.

### *Format of the EAL CEO Report*

There was discussion on refreshing the format of the EAL CEO Report to create a better and more visual style and Greg agreed to work on this and produce for the next meeting in both the existing and new formats. **(Action: Greg Maxwell to provide the next CEO Report in its existing and refreshed format for the EACC August meeting)**

## **5. Greater Good Update**

Greg gave a presentation about the progress on the Greater Good policy of EAL on behalf of Aaron McKeen who was unable to attend.

Greg Maxwell said that EAL were looking to rebuild their commitment to the community by

- Re-engaging (meetings, Facebook, Instagram, digital newsletter )
- Re-Connecting (community survey, site visits)
- Plugging the gaps in communication with the community

**(see attached slide presentation)**

## **6. Presentation by Derek McWhinnie on Police role at EAL**

Derek McWhinnie gave a brief presentation on the role of the Police at the airport and how they mitigate risks and deal with problems. **(See attached slides)**

## **7. Update on roads access**

There had been little progress here since the appeal had been rejected back in February.

The Scottish Ministers did not reject outright the proposals advanced by EAL but required to consider the EAL proposals in the context of the wider plans for transport infrastructure in the area and this would need to be agreed by the Council following consultation with the community and other stakeholders, so currently there was no clear timeline. The idea was to lift the traffic off the Eastfield Road and help cargo movements but there was currently only one way in and one way out and the changes could add problems for the Gogar roundabout.

**(Action : Greg Maxwell agreed to share the visuals on the plans by the EACC August meeting)**

## **8. PRM Update**

Greg spoke about how EAL were keeping high standards handling 349 passengers on peak days and he added that EAL were creating a quiet room by Gate 7 for these passengers which would open later this year

The Accessibility Forum would now gather pace under its new chair and start to move forward for better experiences though it was highlighted that this was sometimes hampered by the lack of ability to use free text on arrangements because of the IATA codes.

## **8. UKACC Update**

Updates from UKACC continue to be circulated to the Committee and Robert commented that there had been no items from EAL over the last two weeks. **(Action: Janice Hogarth to continue circulating the UKACC Weekly Bulletins)**

He added that there was a UKACC working group meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> May which he would be attending virtually.

Some ACCs produce an Annual Report and the question was raised as to whether EACC should do this to which Greg commented that this could be useful and that he would produce some text based on the EACC Minutes and a mock-up. **(Action : Greg Maxwell to use the words from previous Minutes which were produced independently of EAL to create a draft Annual Report for the EACC August meeting)**

## **9. Quarterly Report from EANAB Report and EANRP review after mediation**

Lindsay Cole had submitted a report prior to the meeting and Adam Cumming advised the meeting that the appointment of a new Chair had still not been resolved although applications for the position had closed last December. **(Action : EACC to write to Gordon Robertson expressing concern over the lack of movement on this item by the EACC August meeting )**

The report from |Lindsay Cole highlighted a lot of the work that was being carried out by EANAB and he raised the question again as to why airlines do not adhere to the Continuous Descent Approach which reduces noise and fuel consumption. He also talked about whether EAL would adopt the lower threshold of the measurement of noise down to 45db during the day and 41db at night.

Lindsay thanked June McClung and Simon Rhodes for their ongoing help with regard to ACP and added that a noise monitor was now being installed at Craigie Farm..

## **10. Review of Rolling Action Plan**

*Air Space Change* – Robert asked for an update on this and Greg will forward details by e mail to EACC but added that the next consultations would be in March 2024. **(Action: Greg Maxwell to update the EACC on the ACP by the EACC August meeting)**

## **11. AOCB**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.30 and the next meeting would be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August at the Doubletree.