**Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee**

**Summary of Meeting 14th June 2023**

**Attendees**

12 Committee members were in attendance, plus 4 officers from Newcastle Airport.

 7 apologies were received.

**Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

The Committee agreed the minutes of the last meeting held on 14th March 2023 were an accurate representation.

The Airport gave its update on actions:

* Following the official opening of the Solar Farm on the 30th June, a separate visit to the site will be arranged for Committee members
* A representative from Throckley for the Noise Sub Committee was still being sought
* The litter issue with the hedgerow at the Shell Garage is ongoing, the problem has been raised with tenants and will be followed up.

**Chair’s Business**

The Chair updated the Committee that the Airport had recently made its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) report public and commended the visibility of the Airport Consultative Committee’s work in section 3.1.

A positive and constructive NIA Noise Sub Committee was held in May. Noise continues to be a major issue for all Airport Consultative Committees (ACCs) as well as the DfT

The annual UKACCS meeting is being held in Heathrow on the 23rd and 24th November. The Chair and Deputy Chair are attending, and the agenda will be shared in due course.

**Secretary’s business**

From now on 2 Airport Officers would be sharing the role of Secretary.

**Airport report**

Officers took the Committee through the Airport Company Report.

* Passenger numbers remain strong, with Newcastle performing in the top quartile of all UK airports for growth compared to 2019 levels. Although there was still a slower return of domestic air travel is behind the passenger numbers still being slightly lower than pre-pandemic levels.
* The Airport will welcome another new airline to the region, AEGEAN, in June. AEGEAN will offer flights from Newcastle to Athens, with the route already proving very popular with the North East Greek community.
* Newcastle continues to be one of TUI’s largest bases. The airline will add a fifth aircraft in 2024, bringing two new winter routes to Sharm el Sheikh and Cape Verde.
* Half of the security upgrade project is now complete, Despite the increase in passenger numbers and works in the security area, 98% of passengers continue to be processed in 6 minutes or less.
* The Passenger Services team have seen an increase in numbers requiring assistance since 2022, levels are similar to those in 2019. Implying that those passengers who may have previously been shielding, now have the confidence to travel.
* The Airport’s social media following continues to grow, with the business achieving its highest ever reaching Facebook post recently – with 10.1 million views.
* Regarding commercial projects in the terminal. Café Ritazza landside has been replaced with Starbucks, and Travelex has been replaced with ChangeGroup both landside and airside. In the departure lounge, a new healthier food outlet will be opening at the end of July, with Starbucks also replacing Café Ritazza airside too. Alongside this, there are plans to extend the Aspire lounge and upgrade more of the food and beverage offering in the departure lounge ahead of Summer 2024.
* Newcastle has recently made a submission to the Government consultation on absolute Net Zero Airports. The response focussed on the residual emissions but there currently isn’t a solution to eg: Fire training and refrigerants.
* On Environmental matters Newcastle has received noise complaints from 27 individuals this year. Recycling rates are going up with no waste from the Airport being diverted to landfill. Improvements have been made to the cardboard recycling area and a new food waste trial has been started and to reduce single use plastics.
* The first phase of the Solar Farm is now live, and in April is generated just over 24% of the Airport’s entire energy demand and May was over 30%. During mid-morning to early afternoon the solar farm can supply 100% of the Airport’s requirements.
* A charging site for Airport vehicles is being developed and delivery has been taken of new electric vans, security patrol and ranger vehicles. Fully electric minibuses and ambu-lifts are also ordered and awaiting delivery.
* The Airport is currently consulting with local residents on a proposal for a superfast charging station on the Bellair site next to Callerton Park Way. The site will consist of 12 superfast charging stations and a small coffee drive-thru facility.
* Following discussion on the Airport website, the Airport agreed to provide an overview of the website and its traffic to the Committee at the next meeting.

**Noise Action Plan**

The Airport briefed the Committee on Newcastle Airport’s Noise Action Plan, which is due to be revised and submitted to DEFRA in December 2023

* Maps showing the 2022 noise contours are being produced, however when looking at maps from 2016, it is clear that the noise contours have reduced.
* A number of noise abatement measures have been put in place including no ground testing between 2200 and 0600, noise preferential routes and no small planes being permitted to fly over heavily populated areas.
* Military aircraft often fly over heavily populated areas but it is not as easy to control their movements.
* The Airport provides feedback at every stage of the planning permission when houses are being built inside the noise contours. The Airport takes other steps to ensure the information regarding noise is being passed on to potential buyers.
* A noise complaint form is being developed on the Airport’s website and that the team is working with the Aircraft Noise Action group (ANAG) to ensure the forms on both websites align.

**Any other business**

It was reported that the A696 approach road needs reporting to the City Council as it is in bad repair. The Airport agreed to raise the state of the road with the appropriate agencies.

The Airport welcomed any feedback regarding the woodland planting at Prestwick Windfarms.

**Date of next meeting**

The Chair confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Tuesday 12th September.**