

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE BRISTOL ROOM AT BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,  
ON WEDNESDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2007 AT 2.30 PM**

**Present:**

Alec Ewens	Business West - Chairman for the Meeting
Andrew Skipp	Managing Director, Bristol International Airport
Sue Watson	Airlines
Peter Taplin	SW Region and Bristol TUC
Councillor Peter Edwards	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Councillor Audrey Telling	North Somerset Council
Councillor Brian Huggins	Backwell Parish Council (substituting for Councillor Shirley Pope)
Councillor Rodney Andrews	Chew Valley Cluster of Parishes (substituting for Councillor Neil Cowan)
Councillor Hilary Burn	Cleeve Parish Council
Councillor Hugh Gregor	Winford Parish Council
Councillor David Glynn	Wrighton Parish Council (substituting for Councillor Angela Atkins)
Councillor Jane Bollen	Yatton Parish Council

**Also in attendance:**

Kevin Cooper, Operations Manager, Bristol International Airport  
Alan Davies, Head of Planning and Development, Bristol International Airport  
Lucy O'Shaughnessy, Retail Manager, Bristol International Airport  
Karuna Tharmananthar, Assistant Director, Development and Environment, North Somerset Council  
Inspector Ian Norrie, Avon and Somerset Constabulary  
Margaret Thornton, Secretary

**949. CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING**

In the absence of a Chairman, Alec Ewens, Vice-Chairman, chaired the meeting.

**950. RESIGNATION - ANDREW SKIPP, MANAGING DIRECTOR, BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

The Chairman explained that Andrew Skipp who had been Financial Director at the Airport from 1989 until his appointment as Managing Director in 2002 would shortly be leaving. He said that Andrew was a very approachable Managing Director. Having held numerous meetings in the areas where people lived around the Airport and having been open to telephone calls, he had a very good understanding of the appropriate local issues.

His achievements at the Airport had been outstanding, through his work over many years, and were of great benefit to the regional economy in general, to the growth of inward tourism and to the expansion of our holiday travel which is ongoing.

Members indicated their wish that these comments be recorded in the Minutes.

#### **951. VARIATION IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA**

The Chairman explained that it was his understanding that some Members of the Committee were attending the official opening of The Lodge Environmental Education Centre, Goblin Coombe, by Prince Edward and may be delayed in their arrival.

In the circumstances, he suggested, subject to Members agreement, that the order of the agenda be varied to take the reports for information and questions - agenda items 10 to 17 - after agenda item 3 - Minutes - which would allow those Members attending the opening of the centre a little more time to get to the meeting for the main items.

**RESOLVED - that the order of the agenda be varied and that the reports for information and questions - agenda items 10 to 17 be taken immediately after agenda item 3 - Minutes.**

#### **952. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Pat Murphy/Paul Emery, ABTA, John Lennon, CBI, Councillor Roz Willis, Weston-super-Mare Town Council, Councillor Shirley Pope, Backwell Parish Council, Councillor Neil Cowan, Chew Valley Cluster of Parishes, Councillor Angela Atkins, Wrington Parish Council, Mike Littleton, Community Liaison Manager, Bristol International Airport and Jacqui Mills, Customer Experience Manager, Bristol International Airport.

#### **953. MINUTES - 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2007, copies of which had been previously circulated, were submitted for approval and adoption.

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

#### 954. MATTERS ARISING

##### (a) The Future of Air Transport - Progress Report

With reference to Minute No. 936 Karuna Tharmananthar enquired when it was anticipated that the Committee would receive the reports identified in the resolution relating to the Airport's own targets around environmental and sustainable issues and progress towards attaining these targets, and the implementation of the new powers in the Civil Aviation Act 2006.

Alan Davies explained that it was proposed to report on the Airport's key performance indicators on an annual basis. The Airport was awaiting additional information from its consultants on noise contours and once this information was available it would be possible to submit a report to the Committee.

**RESOLVED - that the information be noted.**

##### (b) Bristol Flyer

With reference to Minute No. 943 Peter Taplin explained that he had used the Bristol Flyer to return to Bristol after the last meeting and -

(a) enquired why the bus, which was parked up in the Airport complex, only moved onto the bus stop to pick up passengers shortly before it was due to leave instead of parking on the stop for the duration and allowing passengers to board as they arrived; and

(b) pointed out that the bus driver had told passengers that he couldn't change larger denomination notes and that they would have to return to the Terminal Building to obtain the necessary change. He suggested that this was not very user friendly particularly for inbound tourists and asked why provision could not be made for passengers to buy tickets for the Flyer Service before leaving the Terminal Building.

Alan Davies, in response, advised that -

(a) the Airport was aware that the bus only moved onto the stop just before it was due to leave and was in dialogue with First Bus in an endeavour to change this practice. There was no reason why the bus should not park on the stop for the duration of its time at the Airport as the driver was not on a scheduled break.

(b) It was recognised that the driver could not carry enough change to see him through the day. The Airport was in discussion with First Great Western regarding the possibility of providing a ticket machine in the Terminal Building which would issue both rail and bus tickets. Tickets were available for purchase from the information desk in the Terminal

Building and he undertook to look at ways of improving publicity for this service.

**RESOLVED - that the information be noted.**

**955. STATISTICS**

**(a) Passenger**

The Committee received a report, a copy of which is inserted in the Minute Book, setting out comparable passenger statistics for the three month period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 and 2007.

Andrew Skip advised that -

(a) the Airport had enjoyed a steady growth in passenger numbers over recent years but it was recognised that this level of growth was unlikely to be sustained.

(b) the number of passengers during the first quarter of 2007 was only marginally more than the comparable quarter in 2006.

(c) in January the throughput of passengers had been disrupted by the problems encountered around the resurfacing of the runway.

(d) the reduction in scheduled domestic numbers could not be attributed to any one cause although it was thought that the increase in Air Passenger Duty and the extended time taken to clear security was not helping the situation.

(e) the international scheduled market was continuing to show steady growth.

(f) the charter market was still contracting in favour of low cost flights and the proposed merger of the four leading tour operators was likely to have implications for the Airport. Bristol Airport had been fortunate in recent years to experience a growth in the charter market unlike other UK airports which had continued to see a decline in this market.

(g) it was envisaged that the number of inbound passengers would increase as the low cost market matured.

**RESOLVED - that the passenger statistics be noted.**

**(b) Aircraft Movement**

The Committee received a report, a copy of which is inserted in the Minute Book, setting out comparable aircraft movements for the three month period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 and 2007.

Andrew Skipp advised that -

- (a) there had been a reduction in aircraft movements in all markets.
- (b) the sale of BA Connect to Flybe and Flybe's subsequent decision to stop flying the BA Connect routes on economic grounds had contributed to this reduction.
- (c) the Airport was actively seeking to secure new destinations and replace the routes lost with the sale of BA Connect.

The Chairman welcomed the increase in international scheduled passengers without a corresponding growth in aircraft movements as this pointed towards an improvement in aircraft occupancy.

**RESOLVED - that the aircraft movements be noted.**

#### **956. POLICING AT THE AIRPORT**

Inspector Ian Norrie informed the Committee that he had assumed responsibility for policing at the Airport from Inspector Ware who had been posted to Portishead for the time being. He then gave a brief update on activities at the Airport over the past quarter.

He explained that -

- (a) Avon and Somerset Constabulary had recently mounted an operation to identify vehicles used in vehicle crime. One such vehicle had been found at the Airport and the driver apprehended.
- (b) theft from baggage remained the biggest problem. Enquiries had revealed that the majority of these incidents had occurred at the departure destination outside the UK.
- (c) there had been an incident of theft from a retail outlet in the Terminal Building. An individual had subsequently been apprehended and prosecuted.
- (d) Avon and Somerset Constabulary was reorganising its neighbourhood policing and setting up beat team in all areas. The station at the Airport was moving towards this new arrangement with the increase of PCSOs to four and PCs from eight to ten to accommodate this new role.
- (e) Sergeant Richard Skinner, who was based at the Airport, was retiring at the end of the week and a new Sergeant would be appointed shortly.

Andrew Skipp welcomed the role of the Police within the Airport and said their presence was very reassuring to passengers, visitors and employees.

**RESOLVED - that the information be noted.**

**957. NOISE MANAGEMENT**

The Committee received a report, a copy of which is inserted in the Minute Book, identifying the number of complaints relating to noise received on a monthly basis for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007: the number of aircraft movements during the same period; the reasons for the complaints; and the locations the complaints had emanated from.

Councillor Edwards pointed out that there was an increasing number of complaints emanating from Pensford. It appeared that aircraft were leaving the air corridor at Watchet and turning over Pensford and he enquired whether anything could be done to alleviate this problem.

Kevin Cooper explained that there had been no change in the flight procedures that meant aircraft were now affecting Pensford in a way that had not previously been the case and which would thereby explain the increase in the number of complaints. The Airport would continue to look into the individual complaints received from residents.

Andrew Skipp advised that once the new tracking equipment was installed it would be possible check on the flight path of individual aircraft and, in the long term, if it was found that aircraft were not adhering to the agreed path fines would be instituted.

Kevin Cooper indicated that he and Mike Littleton had attended a demonstration of flight tracking at Luton Airport. The equipment was capable of identifying not only the path of aircraft but also their height minute by minute. Tracking equipment was due to be installed at the Airport in June/July of this year and once installed the Airport would be able to demonstrate the flight path of any aircraft and take action to make sure aircraft maintained the agreed routes.

Andrew Skipp pointed out that the number of complaints received in January and February 2007 was the lowest on record for a number of years.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

**958. CUSTOMER SERVICES REPORT**

The Committee received a report, a copy of which is inserted in the Minute Book, identifying customer feedback and complaints on services provided by the airport for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

Councillor Gregor explained that -

- (a) Winford Parish Council was anxious to see the promotion of healthy eating particularly for children and young people and in this connection

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Jacqui Mills had arranged a tour of the retail food outlets in the Terminal Building for three representatives from the Parish Council. The displays had been very attractive, and the choice of food and the quality and freshness of the ingredients impressive. The continued expansion of the use of fresh local produce was very welcome as this also benefited local suppliers.

(b) arising out of this tour the Parish Council would appreciate it if they could be informed, from time to time -

- (i) of any new initiatives to use local produce.
- (ii) whether it was proposed to seek continuing advice from nutrition experts such as Prue Leith.

(c) whilst respecting the emphasis the Airport placed on offering its customers a choice of food nevertheless the Parish Representatives were concerned that the Airport was promoting fast foods which were potentially harmful and it was felt that more positive steps should be taken to promote healthy eating.

Lucy O'Shaughnessy explained that the Airport was actively seeking to promote healthy eating by improving the choice of healthy options available. However, it had to be recognised that choice also included less healthy options.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

Councillor Burn entered the meeting during the discussion on the above item.

#### **959. CHARITABLE AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND TRUST FUND DONATIONS**

The Committee received a report, a copy of which is inserted in the Minute Book, advising of charitable and community projects and Trust Fund donations for the period January to March 2007.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

#### **960. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EC REGULATION RELATING TO ACCESS TO AIR TRAVEL FOR PEOPLE WITH REDUCED MOBILITY WORKING PARTY**

An update from the Working Party was not available for this meeting.

#### **961. MINUTES - ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WORKING PARTY**

The Committee received the Minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Effects Working Party held on 11th April 2007, a copy of which is inserted in the Minute Book.

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**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Environmental Effects Working Party held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2007 be noted.**

**962. ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

**(a) CAA Scheme of Charges**

The Committee received a report, a copy of which is inserted in the Minute Book, advising that the Civil Aviation Authority had published its new scheme of charges to be paid to the Authority in connection with the performance by the CAA of its functions with respect to the economic regulation of airports.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

**(b) Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

The Committee received a report, a copy of which is inserted in the Minute Book, advising that the EU's Environment Council had agreed to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

**(c) Climate Change Bill**

The Committee received a report, a copy of which is inserted in the Minute Book, advising that the Government had published its draft Climate Change Bill which was intended to introduce a clear, credible, long-term framework for the UK to achieve its goals for reducing carbon emissions and ensure steps were taken towards adapting to the impacts of climate change.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

**(d) Aircraft Emissions**

The Committee received a report, a copy of which is inserted in the Minute Book, advising that Northern Way was investing in a project being developed by Manchester and Sheffield Universities to probe aircraft emissions.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

**(e) Open Skies Deal**

The Committee received a report, a copy of which is inserted in the Minute Book, advising that the European Union had backed the open skies deal with the United States of America aimed at opening up transatlantic flights to greater competition.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

**(f) Proposed Regulatory Package for Airports**

The Committee received a report, a copy of which is inserted in the Minute Book, advising that the European Commission had adopted an 'airport package' consisting of three key initiatives: a proposal for a directive on airport charges, a communication on airport capacity, efficiency and safety in Europe and a report on the implementation of the ground handling directive.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

**(g) European Draft Directive on Airport Charges**

The Committee received a report, a copy of which is inserted in the Minute Book, advising that the Department for Transport was currently consulting on the proposals in the European Commission's draft Directive on Airport Charges in order to establish the UK's position for negotiating the Directive.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

**963 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

Andrew Skipp advised Members that -

(a) he had recently visited Peter Hutchings and was very pleased to find him in excellent spirits despite his illness.

(b) Peter Hutchings had recommended Peter Lacey, who was County Secretary of the Somerset Association of Local Councils, as a possible independent Chairman of the Committee.

(c) the key issue in appointing a new Chairman was the need for that person to be independent. Peter Lacey had no connection with the Airport, did not live in close proximity to it, and was an infrequent user of air travel.

(d) he was of the opinion that Peter Lacey would be a very able Chairman of the Committee.

(f) if Peter Lacey was prepared to put himself forward to be Chairman of the Committee his appointment would need to be ratified at the Annual General Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007 and would be for a period of three years in accordance with the Committee's Constitution.

**RESOLVED - that the information be noted.**

**964. PRESENTATION - SENSE OF PLACE**

The Committee received a presentation from Lucy O'Shaughnessy, Retail Manager, on the Airport's initiative 'Sense of Place'. She explained that -

(a) this initiative, which commenced some six months ago, sought to create an enhanced, relaxing and stimulating environment for travelling passengers, visitors and customers.

(b) its objectives were -

To make the airport an enjoyable environment by the use of video and audio equipment.

To promote and raise awareness of the diversity of the region.

To benefit, develop and promote the surrounding community by supporting local arts.

To, wherever possible, promote local South West producers and suppliers.

(c) in addition to providing visual and audio entertainment the Airport had also introduced live performances by local artists, including choirs, in the Terminal Building to break up the atmosphere.

(d) major events in the region, such as the Balloon Fiesta, were being promoted with displays both inside and outside the Terminal Building.

(e) local arts and crafts were also being displayed both inside and outside the Terminal Building and these included works by school children and paintings by local artists.

(f) every endeavour was being made to encourage the catering outlets to source their produce in the South West and Yeo Valley was acting as a conduit to help achieve this.

Andrew Skipp indicated that the Airport was seeking to enhance its role in promoting attractions and events in the South West particularly for inbound tourists and had identified dedicated resources to support this. The Airport's attention had recently been drawn to the content of one of the airlines in-flight magazines which suggested visiting Whiteladies Road and Broadmead in Bristol but made no mention of other attractions in the area such as Bath and every endeavour was being made to try to rectify this omission.

Councillor Gregor asked if the catering outlets in the Airport could be asked to mount specific food displays for children to encourage them to choose healthy eating options.

Mr. Taplin explained that he had recently asked his local library to display the Airport's career poster only to be told that approval to display such posters had to be secured through the Central Library. He suggested that the Airport might care to bear this in mind for the future.

The Chairman thanked Lucy O'Shaughnessy for her presentation and suggested that the Airport's 'Sense of Place' initiative was very encouraging.

**RESOLVED - that the presentation be noted.**

**965. MASTER PLAN - DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Alan Davies advised that -

- (a) since the last meeting of the Committee North Somerset Council, at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2007 had formulated its response to the Airport's Master Plan.
- (b) the Council had noted the Plan and agreed that the Airport should be advised of its significant concerns regarding the following issues -
- the absence of a viable and sustainable surface access strategy.
  - the need for an independent environmental and biodiversity impact assessment prior to any development being authorised.
  - the need to identify committed funding for works to overcome surface access, environmental and biodiversity issues.
  - the need for an independent assessment into the economic cost/benefit impact on local and regional businesses.
  - the need to consider any other detailed issues raised through the Council's internal and public consultation and the officers' conclusions.
  - The need for full consideration to be given to the Stern report relating to the climate change effects of an expanded airport.
- (c) the Airport was in the process of finalising its planning application which would include the majority of the developments outlined in the Master Plan.
- (d) the six concerns identified by North Somerset Council would be addressed in the planning application.
- (e) the best way to overcome the concerns around the environmental and biodiversity issues would be for the Council to undertake its own independent impact assessment.
- (f) the Airport was submitting its environmental and biodiversity impact assessment for independent audit to the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment.

(g) the Airport was also requesting the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment to review the design of the proposed Terminal Building.

Councillor Hilary Burn -

(a) enquired whether Members of North Somerset Council would be informed of these developments and was advised by Karuna Tharmananthar that arrangements were in hand to brief Members on a number of issues after 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007.

(b) asked whether the public would be consulted on the environmental and biodiversity impact assessment and was advised by Alan Davies that the assessment would form part of the planning application.

**RESOLVED - that the information be noted.**

**966. NORTH SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL/BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL  
ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY**

The Committee received a report prepared by York Aviation on behalf of North Somerset District Council and Bristol City Council on the catalytic economic impact of Bristol International Airport.

Alan Davies explained that -

(a) this report had been undertaken as part of the assessment of the Master Plan process.

(b) the report explored in further detail the following areas -

- the economic context set by the Future of Air Transport White Paper and the subsequent Progress Report.

- the connectivity offered by the Airport and the links it provides to key business centres.

- the role airports play in company location and investment decisions and the pattern of inward investment in the Bristol City Region.

- inbound tourism and the role played by the Airport in bringing visitors to the City Region.

(c) the report concluded that -

- The White Paper and Progress Report identified the continued development of air services as an essential facet of future UK economic growth, particularly considering the increasing global focus of the UK economy and the growing importance of

knowledge intensive sectors. These arguments were not new and they were tempered by the need to consider the environmental impacts of this expansion, however they remained valid and would become more so if the UK and world economies developed as expected.

- The connectivity provided by the Airport was without question important to the Bristol City Region. It was the only provider of the international connectivity so essential to developing regional economies within an hour's drive of Bristol.

In terms of the relative position of Bristol compared to its UK core city competitors, with the London services excluded, it performed well. The position in relation to its European comparators was less positive. If the Bristol City Region was to continue its success it needed an expanding Airport to help bridge this connectivity gap to ensure that it did not fall behind as a place to locate and do business. The assessment suggested that, if the routes anticipated within the Master Plan came forward the connectivity position of the City would improve considerably.

- It has been established by reference to a variety of research evidence, the importance of airports in general to influencing company location decisions. The Bristol City Region has generated a significant and growing number of inward investment enquiries in recent years, noticeably as the Airport has significantly expanded the services it offers and improved the connectivity it offers. This connectivity is an important selling point for the City Region in the inward investment market and makes sure Bristol features on 'short-lists' of locations where without the Airport it might not.

- The Airport brings a significant number of both business and leisure visitors to the Bristol City Region, contributing to the tourism sector within the area. If the sector is to grow, widening its appeal and improving the quality of the visitor experience, it needs a thriving, growing Airport to assist in achieving these aspirations.

Karuna Tharmananthar advised that -

- (a) this report had not been available when North Somerset Council had considered the Master Plan.
- (b) the report had been published on the Council's website and was available for debate and comment.
- (c) it was important to recognise that whilst the continued development of air services was an essential facet of future UK economic growth this had to be tempered by the need to consider the environmental impact

of expansion. It was therefore important to achieve a balance between expansion and environmental considerations.

(d) on the question of connectivity it was not just about securing additional routes but the relevance of those routes in terms of business and tourism for the Bristol City Region.

(e) the evidence suggested that airports were critical to inward investment but expansion would need to be viewed in context with other issues.

In response to a comment from Mr. Taplin, Andrew Skipp indicated that the report had identified a number of interesting issues around connectivity particularly in relation to the destination points system. UK airports with connections to Heathrow scored highly on connectivity although they did not necessarily offer the range of connections that Bristol Airport did. The Airport did not benefit from connectivity to the London airports.

Councillor Burn indicated that Cleve Parish Council was not happy with this report. The authors of the report were associated with the aviation industry; the report did not adequately address tourism deficit or the impact of economic expansion; and some of the information contained in the report particularly around connectivity dated back to 1988 whilst information relative to more recent years was not in evidence; The report showed that companies looked for a highly skilled workforce when relocating rather than the benefits of a regional airport.

Andrew Skipp pointed out that the report had been commissioned by North Somerset District Council and Bristol City Council and it was for these authorities to address the issues being raised by Councillor Burn.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

#### **967. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

##### **(a) Capital Projects and Sustainability - Update**

Andrew Skipp advised that the final phase of the development of the Western Apron was now underway, and the relocation of the frequent flyer lounges to accommodate an extension of the main departure lounge in the Terminal Building was also in hand.

**RESOLVED - that the information be noted.**

##### **(b) New Routes for 2007**

Andrew Skipp advised that easyJet had introduced its new route to Milan which was one of the routes lost when BA Connect had been sold to Flybe.

The Airport was in discussion with airlines to replace the other BA Connect routes, particularly those to Frankfurt and Munich, as soon as possible.

**RESOLVED - that the information be noted.**

#### **968. CIVIL AVIATION ACT 2006**

The Committee considered a report from Karuna Tharmananthar, Assistant Director, Development and Environment, North Somerset Council, on the implications of the Civil Aviation Act 2006.

Karuna Tharmananthar explained that -

- (a) North Somerset Council had commissioned York Aviation and Parsons Brinckeroff to advise them on the non planning control powers available to the Airport arising out of the Civil Aviation Act 2006.
- (b) the report identified opportunities available to the Airport to manage and mitigate the impact of aircraft operations on the community outside of the planning arena.
- (c) these opportunities centred on the introduction of differential charging mechanisms to penalise airlines which operated noisier and dirtier aircraft and infringed noise and emission limits.
- (d) he was asking the Airport to consider these opportunities and bring forward reports identifying how it intended to implement these provisions.
- (e) it was important that the Council and the Airport worked together to improve performance of aircraft in terms of the environment and community impact.

Alan Davies, in response, advised that -

- (a) it was the intention of the Airport to introduce a charging regime from the beginning of next year.
- (b) it was envisaged that there would be a tiered charging structure based on the category of aircraft. Airlines would face a surcharge or discount based on the aircraft's noise emissions.
- (c) a further monitor was being installed to record the noise emissions from departing aircraft. This would allow the Airport to monitor emissions from departures and arrivals and surcharge airlines for any violations.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

**969. ANY OTHER BUSINESS****(a) Empty Flights**

Councillor Burn enquired how many empty flights came into the Airport on slot rotation.

Andrew Skipp explained that the Airport did not have any slot rotation flights. Occasionally an aircraft came in empty at the beginning of the summer season when the airlines were repositioning their flights.

**RESOLVED - that the information be noted.**

**(b) Airport Taxi Concession**

In response to a question from Councillor Andrews, Andrew Skipp explained that -

- (a) the reason Bristol Airport and the majority of airports throughout the UK operated taxi concessions was because of the need for a specified number of vehicles and drivers to be available 24 hours a day 7 days a week.
- (b) without such a concession the Airport would be reliant on external taxis companies and drivers who were unlikely to be prepared to provide the necessary 24 hour coverage.
- (c) when the taxi concession at the Airport had been placed out to tender recently it had been won by Checkerscars who operated similar concessions at a number of other airports.
- (d) the feedback he had received from the drivers, the majority of whom had transferred from the former company, had been very positive.

**RESOLVED - that the information be noted.**

**970. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting of the Consultative Committee, which was the Annual General Meeting, would be held at 2.30 pm on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

Andrew Skipp explained that this was almost certainly his last meeting of the Consultative Committee. He thanked Members for their support and the good natured way in which business had been conducted at meetings over the years. He had found the Committee a very useful forum for the exchange of views.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed.