Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee: Quarterly Meeting 8th June 2021.

The meeting was held on Zoom and 17 members of the Committee and staff were present. There were no apologies recorded.

The Chair welcomed the attendees to the meeting including those recently elected to office.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and the committee agreed that matters arising had been actioned.

2. The chairman updated the committee that the deadline for consultation on Night Flights had been extended to September and the Committee response would be provided nearer that time. The vice-chairman updated the committee on the recent ICAN meeting regarding noise and noise management and pointed out that as air traffic recovers the Noise Sub-Committee will be operative again.

3. The Airport Report again concentrated on the problems associated with the pandemic restrictions and the ongoing effect on the business. Core services by BA, KLM and Air France have been further supported by domestic services by Loganair and Easyjet and both business and “staycation” holiday passengers have been flying. Prior to Portugal’s removal from the green list airline partners had put tickets on sale for 16 flights per week showing their confidence in the northeast market. The business continues to lobby Government to maintain the Airport and Ground Operations Support Scheme as well as the Job Support Scheme for those areas affected by current restrictions. Noise complaints have totalled 4 to date but the Airport continues to operate the noise monitoring and web track system which remains available to the public despite the associated costs. An update was given on Airview Park developments to build two small office buildings and plans are being discussed with the Woolsington Residents Association.

4. Aviation Tax Reform. The Tax is the subject of a consultation with the Government and the hope is that the double hit on domestic flights will be amended to a single charge. The Airport will submit a response and the committee agreed to align its response with that of the Airport. APD is not a tax hypothecated to environmental issues although in the past it has been seen in that context.

5. Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy. Recent work in this area has included the Net Zero Carbon work and objectives and the plan in relation to renewables policies. This strategy will now be included on the airport web site in the Environment section.

6. In response to questions the Airport confirmed it monitors air pollution on the airport site and will do so in local areas when air traffic returns to normal. In respect of water, all water going into rivers and streams from the airport is monitored both by the airport and the Environmental Agency.

7. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 7th September 2021, location to be agreed.