Airport Consultative Committee Meeting (on Zoom ) 8th September 2021.

Present 10 Committee Members, 2 members of the Airport staff and there were 3 apologies.

1. The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced a new Committee Member representing Durham County Council.

2. As this meeting was the AGM elections were held and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were re-elected unanimously. The Airport was also elected as the secretariat. The chairman then advised the meeting that both she and the vice-chairman would be retiring in September 2022. The Terms of Reference will be updated in line with the recommendations and the process to appoint a new independent chairman will commence in early 2022.

3. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and confirmed.

4. Chairman’s Business. The chairman updated the committee on the work of the Heathrow Committee, called the Heathrow Community Engagement Board which employed a research company to look at awareness and knowledge of the Board within the local community and how it can best understand what communities want from a Consultative Committee. After questions from committee members the chairman agreed to get further details from UKACCS to better understand future developments which may be relevant to our committee. The chairman also informed the committee that the agreed response to the Night Flight consultation had been submitted. The Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise will be disbanded and its work continued by the Civil Aviation Authority.

5. The Secretariat advised that the Airport had received some questions from Woolsington Residents Association concerning litter and waste bins and other matters and these would be dealt with. A decision on whether the next meeting should be held in person or on line or a mix of both will be decided in good time for the December Meeting.

6. Company Report. Passenger load factors are increasing slowly and 9 of the Airports pre-pandemic airlines have returned with the rest returning shortly. Jet2.com and Tui have announced additional based aircraft for summer 2022 and Ryanair are opening a new base with 2 aeroplanes based at Newcastle. With low passenger movements there had been little reaction to the new drop off charges. The return of Emirates flights and the Ryanair base had gained considerable coverage in local media and a new marketing campaign will be developed to promote summer 2022 opportunities. The Airport continues to engage with Government to help the airline industry to recover from the effects of the pandemic. The majority of departure lounge outlets are now open including the Aspire Lounge but masks are still mandated in the airport. A new Environmental and Sustainability Advisor has been appointed. A modest increase in noise complaints has occurred as flights increase but the total for 2021 to date is 21 from 17 complainants.

7. The Solar Farm Consultation has progressed and is welcomed by most people who have responded with 98% in favour. Newcastle City Council will carry out its own consultation once the planning application has been submitted. The airport will encourage people to take part and will be available to meet with affected parties to answer any questions raised.

8. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 7th December 2021.