**Airport Consultative Committee Meeting (on Zoom) 7th December 2021.**

Present 10 Committee Members, 2 Members of the Airport Staff and there were 4 apologies.

1. The Chair welcomed two members attending for the first time representing Durham CC and Hazelrigg PC.

2. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and accepted.

3. The Chairman’s business included a report on the virtual UKACCs annual meeting attended by 40 people including the chair and the vice-chair and representatives of the DfT and the CAA. Subjects covered included the DfT conducting a review of the guidelines for Consultative Committees, the position of local authority councillors on Committees when the council involved has a financial interest in an Airport, possible conflict of interest for councillors and the need to ensure that areas local to the Airports should be represented. The Committee agreed that a response to a DfT questionnaire would be the subject of discussion as soon as it became available.

4. The Airport gave an update on the progress of the Planning Application for the Solar Farm and advised that the Planning Committee would not be meeting until the New Year. There was further discussion on wildlife corridors, the handling of solar panels when they were de-commissioned and when/if the Solar Farm would contribute to the national grid.

5. Airport Company Report. The first 10 months of 2021 show passenger levels at significantly reduced numbers compared to 2019. The Airport continues to lobby Government to reduce restrictions on arrivals and departures. Airlines are reporting advance bookings for 2022 as well as uptake of late deals. PRM handling has been at a high level with 9,258 passengers helped to date. All major airlines have now returned to operations from the Airport and the Marketing Department are developing their plans for 2022. Commercial developments both in the terminal and in the Airview Park were detailed. The newly appointed Environment and Sustainability Officer was introduced to the meeting and reviewed Air Quality results which were well inside legal limits and Noise Complaints increasing now there is more traffic at the Airport. All complaints are acknowledged and handled and specific complaints from Heddon on the Wall will be investigated at the next Committee meeting.

6. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 8th March 2022. The meeting will be either virtual or in person depending on conditions at the time.