

# minutes



Meeting	CROSS SERVICE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE
Date	Wednesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2005 (commencing at 10.30 am)

## Membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

## COUNCILLORS

Councillor Roy R J Barsley (Chair)  
Councillor M Brandon-Bravo OBE (Vice-Chairman)

	Mrs Sue Bennett	A	Joe Lonergan MBE
A	Joyce Bosnjak JP		J T A Napier
	S Carroll		D E Pulk
	V H Dobson	A	Mrs S Smedley
	Andy Freeman	A	M Suthers OBE
	E Llewellyn - Jones		

## Also in attendance

Councillor Kate Allsop  
“ B G Smith  
“ Andy Stewart  
“ Chris Winterton

## MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2004, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the chair.

## CONSULTATION ON NOTTINGHAM EAST MIDLANDS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FLIGHT PATHS

Prior to consideration of business included in the published agenda, Councillor Brandon-Bravo raised issues relating to the response sent on behalf of the County Council to the consultation on the Nottingham East Midlands International Airport flight paths. The Committee shared his strong concern that the response sent had not been the subject of sufficient consultation within the authority and had been officer led.

In reply, the Head of Scrutiny commented that it was being reported to the next meeting of the Council.

It was agreed to pass the Select Committees concerns on to the Director of Environment and the Chief Executive to ensure that a similar occurrence did not happen again.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Joyce Bosnjak.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

None.

### **ROBIN HOOD AIRPORT DONCASTER SHEFFIELD – HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, INWARD INVESTMENT AND TOURISM ISSUES**

Trish Adams, Development Officer, Regeneration and Kate Robinson, Acting Team Manager, Public Transport Strategy Team gave a presentation to the Select Committee on the current issues around highways and transportation, inward investment, and tourism, in relation to the Committee's study of the Robin Hood Airport Doncaster Sheffield and its impact on Nottinghamshire.

In terms of highways and transportation, it was pointed out that the impact on the road network in Nottinghamshire was considered minimal, and that the capacity in the current road network was considered to be adequate for the additional predicted vehicle movements generated by the airport.

It was explained that the Blyth Roundabout would become a grade-separated junction operating like a motorway junction and that the improvement had already been planned as part of the Highways Agency's upgrade to the A1. The addition of Peel's Section 106 funding had allowed for the work to be brought forward. A distribution storage freight park would also be located on the Blyth roundabout to ensure that increased HGV traffic carrying freight will impact only on the main roads leading to the airport.

In relation to the rail network, the Select Committee heard that Peel Airports was promoting plans for a dedicated railway station on the Doncaster - Lincoln line and that officers from the Nottinghamshire County Council had requested that the Intercity east coast rail franchise agreement include an extension to Doncaster via the Gainsborough service. Ms Robinson said that whilst the County Council supported this in principle, the service levels were currently poor on the Doncaster to Lincoln line and that there would little prospect for this to improve in the short to medium term.

It was explained that the County Council had contributed £10,000 towards a study commissioned by Bassetlaw District Council for consultants Steer

Davies Gleave to examine the feasibility of serving the airport through the establishment of new bus services and the diversion of existing services by public transport. The recommendations will include specific and informed proposals and a range of funding alternatives and was to be reported on in March 2005.

In terms of the funding, Ms Robinson said that Section 106 funding had been made available for public transport by the developer as part of the planning approval, and that the determining authority, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council had allocated it exclusively to services within their area and none to provide transport links to Nottinghamshire.

The Select Committee heard about the Alliance SSP Investment Project which was a partnership involving Nottinghamshire County Council, the North Nottinghamshire and North Derbyshire SSP and the District Councils who were working to attract inward investment into the county and wider SSP area. The partnership will be working with the new airport and the business park development at Finningley, and include building the airport into future sales pitches and market business/industrial development sites as having access to Robin Hood Airport. It was also pointed out that the Business Park at Robin Hood could be an issue with the County losing businesses to South Yorkshire. Ms Adams pointed out that a major issue relating to inward investment was the lack of land available for business development and a growing concern that the supply and demand for land not lining up. It was felt that it would be useful to work with Bassetlaw District Council to identify land with a potential for development and that lessons learnt from MARR (Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route) could help to shape work to identify sites to benefit from the Robin Hood Airport.

In terms of work on tourism, Ms Adams said that this was being led by the newly launched destination management partnership "Experience Nottinghamshire" and that the County Council had a service level agreement with them to market Nottinghamshire to visitors. The provision of an information point at the airport was being considered.

The Select Committee heard that accommodation was an issue as there was little available in the North of the County. It was recognised that a lot of work will need to be done in relation to this, in terms of identifying suitable land. The County Council was working in partnership with the Learning and Skills Council to deliver an action plan for workforce development in the tourism, culture, leisure and hospitality sectors throughout Nottinghamshire to try and overcome a skills gap identified within the travel to work area of the airport.

The Select Committee heard about Peel Holdings taking over the Liverpool Airport in 1997 and how it has contributed greatly to the regeneration of South Liverpool.

It was also explained that work was being undertaken to try and brand

Sherwood Forest to raise its profile in the wider world for inbound tourism. Peel Airports had commissioned research into using Robin Hood as a brand name but found that this was not viable because no one owned it. Ms Adams also added that key to its marketing will be the collection of data on numbers using the airport. It was felt that the proposed Business Park could be an issue with the County losing businesses to South Yorkshire.

In relation to the potential of long haul flights at the Robin Hood Airport, Councillor Brandon-Bravo felt that it would be both useful and interesting to learn why the Nottingham East Midlands Airport was not doing this given that it had a longer runway.

In response to a question from Councillor Llewelyn-Jones regarding the potentiality of the Robin Hood Line being a useful connection it was explained that whilst it would be helpful, in the short term priority was being given to the basic infrastructure. Councillor Llewelyn-Jones also referred to Easyjet promoting Cresswell Craggs in its in-flight brochure and suggested that this should be used for promotion purposes. The Select Committee was concerned to learn that there were still a number of strategic issues outstanding given that the airport would be opening soon. It was also felt that the County Council was being reactionary to a lot of the matters.

Councillor Kate Allsopp asked how often the impact on roads would be monitored and referred to a recent meeting of the East Midlands Officer Transport Group and said that its web based car share scheme had not taken off very well. She expressed her concern at the lack of quality hotels in the north of Nottinghamshire. It was acknowledged that there was a lot of work that needed to be done. Councillor Napier felt that it would also be useful to collate statistics on people going out of the airport. He also expressed his concern regarding the likely impact a broken down freight vehicle would have on the traffic going through Worksop and Retford.

It was explained that the comments and concerns raised by members would be presented to the February meeting of Robin Hood Airport Study Group for its consideration when work would also begin on the drawing together of its recommendations to be presented to the Select Committee.

The meeting closed at 12 noon.

**CHAIR**

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