



meeting	CROSS SERVICE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE	
date	14 July 2004	agenda item number

Report of the Chair of the Cross Service and External Affairs Select Committee

Robin Hood Airport – Doncaster Sheffield - a project scope for examining the impact of the airport on Nottinghamshire

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** To inform Members of a potential project scope for the Committee to investigate the impact of Robin Hood Airport – Doncaster Sheffield on Nottinghamshire. At its meeting of 2nd June 2004 the Select Committee requested that a scoping paper be prepared, supplemented by a presentation to the Committee.

2. Background

- 2.1** In 1999, Peel Airports (Finningley) Limited submitted a planning application to develop Finningley Airfield, a former RAF base, – as a commercial airport, with airport related business, leisure and hotel facilities.
- 2.2** The site is in the Metropolitan District of Doncaster but lies very close to the County boundary being 4 kms to the north-west of Misson and 7 kms to the north-east of Harworth-Bircotes.
- 2.3** Doncaster MBC requested planning and highway observations on the application from this Council. These were sent following consideration by the then Environment (Development) Sub-Committee at its meeting on 9th February 2000 when it was resolved that no strategic planning objections be raised, but that a holding objection be raised relating to certain highway and transport issues.
- 2.4** Following that resolution, discussions then took place with Doncaster MBC, the applicants, their consultants and other interested parties. The applicants

made certain revisions to their proposals and provided additional information. These matters were then reported to Planning Committee on 5th February 2001 when it was resolved that the highway/transport objections be withdrawn.

- 2.5** By this time the then Secretary of State had called in the application for his determination and the views of Planning Committee were forwarded to the Government office for Yorkshire and the Humber.
- 2.6** A Public Inquiry was held between 25th September 2001 and 3rd April 2002. The County Council gave evidence to that Inquiry in support of the planning and economic development aspects, and for the inclusion in a voluntary agreement (a Section 106 Agreement) for certain public transport contributions for new/improved services between population centres in Bassetlaw and the proposed International Airport. This evidence was undertaken jointly with Bassetlaw District Council.
- 2.7** The First Secretary of State, John Prescott, granted consent to the application on 3rd April 2003, subject to 109 conditions. A Section 106 Agreement was completed covering a wide range of matters, including highways and transport issues. A copy of the decision letter, the summary of the Inspector's Report and other documentation sent with the decision letter were placed in the Local Government Library, County Hall.
- 2.8** In August 2002, consultants DTZ Pieda completed a study on behalf of the Bassetlaw Development Agency (jointly funded by Bassetlaw District Council, East Midlands Development Agency and Nottinghamshire County Council) titled "*Bassetlaw District : Masterplan and Strategy for the future Provision of Employment Land and Premises*". As part of the Strategy the Consultants estimated that between 1700 and 2400 jobs could be taken by Bassetlaw residents as a result of the development and operation of the Airport, including ancillary and support operations/services. Indeed, this was the qualitative view of the County Council, the District Council and East Midlands Development Agency expressed at the call-in Inquiry; the Consultants provided a quantitative assessment to this qualitative view.
- 2.9** DTZ Pieda also recommended that to realise the economic benefits arising from the Airport development and operation a partnership approach should be adopted to ensure that a) sites for airport related developments in the Harworth area should be realised. This would involve landowners and also cover training and other matters; and b) local training initiatives are in line with the anticipated requirements of employers at the airport. A copy of the Executive Summary of the DTZ Pieda Study was placed in the Local Government Library, County Hall.
- 2.10** Nottinghamshire County Council's Head of Skills, Enterprise and Business Support is this Council's link officer with Bassetlaw and partners to implement and guide the outworking of the decision to build the Airport. This officer is

attending the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, and will be able to update members on main areas of work to date.

2.11 Bassetlaw District Council has employed a Marketing Development Officer for Robin Hood Airport - Doncaster Sheffield, since April 2004; this officer is employed by Bassetlaw District Council, and the post is part funded by the Alliance Sub - Regional Strategic Partnership (North Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire). The officer is attending the meeting of the Select Committee. The Marketing Development Officer provides one contact point with Robin Hood Airport; the officer is also working to an action plan which includes the following co-ordinating activities:

- Work on the Top Flight Project ; a road show which highlights types of employment available at the airport, in conjunction with North Notts College , providers of relevant training courses.
- Work with Business Link and the Chamber of Commerce on business opportunities provided by the new airport.
- Work on public transport issues – including close joint working with this County Council
- Working with the Strategic Sub Regional Partnership investment team on land requirements related to the airport.
- Work to ensure that when the airport is up and running –

Tourism development is supported

In-coming tourism is captured

2.12 Peel Airports Ltd, owners of Robin Hood Airport, were invited to send a representative to this Committee meeting to give a presentation on the key current issues and timescales relating to Robin Hood Airport. David Ryall, Managing Director Designate of the airport will present these issues; all Members have been provided with an information pack, including current fact sheets about Robin Hood Airport, and information about the location, scheme, market – passengers and cargo, and economic benefits of the new airport.

3 Scope of Project

Following the presentation and discussion, the Committee may decide to study one or more of the following issues in relation to the airport. In each case the Committee will need to consider where work is already being carried out, and how this could be complemented:

3.1 Highway and Transportation issues relating to the airport – including access and public transport issues.

3.2 Regeneration, economic development, job opportunities, and training issues

3.3 Impact on residents living near to the airport

3.4 Impact on Nottinghamshire East Midlands Airport

3.5 Local investment, including impact on businesses and in-bound tourism

4 Method of study and duration of the project

4.1 It is proposed that the study commences with an analysis of issues raised through the presentations and information provided to the Committee, and that the study includes study visits and discussions with local groups and District Councils affected by the airport proposal. The study will focus on the impact of the airport on the whole of Nottinghamshire as a whole.

4.2 It is proposed that the study is completed by the end of March 2005.

4.3 A detailed project plan will be drawn up once the Committee has decided on the areas it wishes to focus on in the scope of this study.

5 Recommendation

It is recommended that Members discuss and then agree the areas they wish to concentrate on in undertaking the study of the impact of Robin Hood airport on Nottinghamshire.

6 Background papers available for inspection

- Report of the Chief Executive and Director of Environment - Decision on the development proposal for an international airport at Finningley, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council : Cabinet 7th May 2003
- Finningley Airport application file
- Study by DTZ Pleda Consulting "Bassetlaw District: Masterplan and Strategy for the Provision of Employment Land and Premises"

Councillor Roy Barsley

Chair of the Cross Service and External Affairs Select Committee