

minutes



Meeting CROSS SERVICE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Wednesday, 14th July 2004 (commencing at 10.30 am)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

	Chris Baron	A	Joe Lonergan MBE
	Roy R J Barsley	A	J T A Napier
	Mrs Sue Bennett	A	D E Pulk
A	Joyce Bosnjak JP	A	Mrs S Smedley
	M Brandon-Bravo		M Suthers OBE
	V H Dobson		1 Vacancy (Labour Group)
	Andy Freeman		

Also in attendance

Councillor Mrs K Cutts
“ B Laughton
“ Mrs C Pepper
“ Mrs V Smailes
“ Mrs S Place

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting on Wednesday 2nd June 2004, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Joyce Bosnjak
“ J Lonergan MBE
“ J Napier

“ D Pulk (on other County Council business)
“ Mrs S Smedley

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

ROBIN HOOD AIRPORT – DONCASTER SHEFFIELD- A PROJECT SCOPE FOR EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF THE AIRPORT ON NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Mr David Ryall – Managing Director Designate of the Robin Hood Airport - made a presentation to the Committee that began with a brief history of Peel Holdings Ltd, the owners of Finningley Airfield, and included an overview of the course of construction of the airport which will open in March 2005.

He explained the importance of regional airports to the local economy, how the predicted growth in low cost flights for both tourism and business travel, and increased freight capacity, will provide employment and create inward investment from international companies leading to the economic regeneration of the South Yorkshire/North Nottinghamshire area.

Finningley Airport will service a catchment area of 4 million potential customers, the majority of whom are currently using Manchester Airport, however 16% of them currently use Nottingham East Midlands Airport. This will obviously have some effect, but a recent Government report has predicted that growth at Nottingham East Midlands Airport over the next 10 years will exceed that.

Mr Ryall was sure that the Robin Hood name will draw interest from all over the world, and since Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire have some of the UK's top tourist attractions, we can expect an increase in visitors to the whole area and should be ensuring accommodation will be available. Indirectly, this should create another 1700 jobs for the local community.

Through partnership with local councils and other agencies, access roads to the airport are being upgraded, links to major transport routes and the rail network are being improved, and public transport has already been re-routed to serve the airport. Local companies are being encouraged to tender for contracts, a “One Stop Shop” dedicated training and employment facility will be based at the airport to ensure that opportunities are available to local people; a roadshow entitled Directions Finningley is currently visiting schools in the area to influence career choices. This will ensure a skilled local workforce is available, not only to the airport, but also new investors to the area.

David Mather – Head of Skills, Enterprise & Business Support from Culture & Community Department - explained that the County Council role in the partnership includes the provision of land, the upgrading and improvement of transport links, marketing Nottinghamshire as a Tourist destination,

encouraging inward investment and providing business support and access to opportunities for local companies. The Council have opened a local base in Worksop which will provide links to employment and training from local schools and colleges.

Michelle Le Calvez – Development & Marketing Officer for Bassetlaw District Council - updated the Committee on work in progress on behalf of Bassetlaw DC and its local partners, creating opportunities and support for local businesses, improving transport links and providing education and relevant training in conjunction with North Notts College.

Councillor Brandon Bravo expressed concern that there would be sufficient business to support two regional airports, particularly after the closure of Sheffield airport to commercial flights. Mr Ryall assured him that the current boom in the number of low cost flights will be sustained, and the Government forecast predicting growth over the next 10 years shows that NEMA will need to expand in the future. The length of the runway at Finningley makes it suitable for medium and long haul flights, which was not the case at Sheffield, and this provides a gateway to Eastern Europe and the USA. Increased freight capacity, plus easy access to major UK transport routes, means exports and imports can be moved more quickly and this will encourage trade links. The company is aiming at new markets in France, Germany, Scandinavia and all the Countries recently admitted to the EU.

Councillor Freeman said that a good transport system was a priority, and that we need an overall strategy for access to the airport and major roads, and public transport provision for the local population, the workforce, and visitors. Councillor Barsley made the point that an increase in tourism in the area will also require the provision of additional accommodation.

In response to a question from Councillor Mrs Cutts, Mr Ryall explained how the "locals first" system works : the core area being around Doncaster, the next ring covered by the local partnerships, and then spreading out, north as far as Sheffield and south as far as Bassetlaw, ensuring that opportunities for trade and employment benefit the local community first.

Councillor Barsley thanked Mr Ryall for his presentation.

The Committee agreed to establish a study group of 7 members (4 Labour Members + 2 Conservative Members + 1 Liberal Democrat Member) which will initially concentrate on the issues identified in the report at 3.1 to 3.5 and will present its findings to the full Committee by March 2005.

The first meeting of the Study Group will take place on September 13th 2004 at 10.30am.

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING PARTNERSHIP WORKING – A

PROJECT SCOPE FOR EXAMINING THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF REGIONAL GOVERNMENT ON NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Lynn Senior, Head of Scrutiny, confirmed that the report sets out the current situation and issues around possible changes in the future.

Roger Howes, Regional & International Officer, reported that the breadth of the subject and the uncertainty of the current situation, made it important to carefully think through the scope of the study. The result of the referendum in the North East, North West, Yorkshire & the Humber scheduled for November 4th 2004 could provide some direction.

The Committee discussed delaying the start of the project but agreed that it was important to begin planning, and that much could be achieved in the interim.

The Committee agreed:

- i) to develop a study of Regional Government; the scope of which would be to examine the work of key East Midlands regional agencies, current links between Nottinghamshire County Council and its partners, including the impact on partnership working, and potential future developments, including developments around Regional Government elsewhere in the country. A key objective of the study would be to gather evidence to form opinion, should a referendum on an elected Regional Assembly be carried out in the East Midlands region.
- ii) that a Member of the Regional Assembly be invited to the next meeting to give a presentation related to the issues in the scoping project.

The meeting closed at 12.15pm.

CHAIR

M_14 July 04