**Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee:**

**Quarterly Meeting March 2021**

**The meeting was held on Zoom and 12 members of the Committee and staff were present. There were three apologies recorded.**

The Chair welcomed the attendees to the meeting.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and there were no matters carried forward.

2. The Company Report was again an indication of the difficulties caused by the Covid restrictions. Passenger movements were at only 2% of 2019 with only British Airways, Loganair and easyJet operating limited services and Air France resuming Paris flights in March. Whilst a number of airlines are expected to return across the summer a return to a normal business level is estimated to take several years.

The Airport was pleased to be rated Very Good in a recent CAA report on accessibility for the handling of disabled passengers.

During the lockdown every effort has been made to communicate with potential passengers and also with employees on furlough or working from home. This contact has been well received by staff, particularly with Team Talks and Webinars, which have featured updates by the CEO. Contact with Government has been vital and it is good news that the Airport and Ground Operations Support Scheme has now been extended for a further 6 months.

Despite the best efforts of a number of businesses and organisations the bid for Freeport status was not successful with Teesside winning here in the North East. The Review of Air Space Implementation which was recently carried out by the CAA, has been completed successfully.

The Airport reported plans to replace all vehicles with electric models by 2035 by which time the objective of Net Zero will be achieved by the Airport. Many more charging points are planned in addition to those now operating in public and staff car parks.

3. Questions from the Committee included how could the Airport get more long haul flights and how were businesses in the Airport coping with the lockdown and reduced passenger numbers. The Airport is constantly looking at possible extra destinations and has just agreed to Frankfurt with Lufthansa – an important hub airport. Airport businesses are operating the furlough scheme where appropriate.

4. Night Flights Consultation by the DfT. Whilst the only designated airports are Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, the Committee agreed that it should contribute comments on the national situation on the lines that no decisions should be made until business returns towards normal and that any future decisions should be locally based rather than a national decision.

5. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 8th June 2021 at 10.00am. The location and format will be confirmed nearer the time.