Airport Consultative Committee Meeting (on Zoom ) 8th March 2022

Present 6 Committee Members, 2 Members of the Airport Staff and there were 4 apologies.

1. The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate account. The Airport confirmed that all the materials used on the Solar Farm would be recycled at the end of their lifespan.

3. The chairman’s business included an overview of a recent Department of Transport information gathering survey. As a result of this exercise it was agreed that the committee worked well and it is hoped that any conclusions by the Department will be available at a future meeting. The Airport agreed that a tour of the Airport should be arranged so that committee members would get an update on the various operations.

4. The Secretariat advised that Sunderland Council wanted to have a representative on the committee and this was agreed. Ideally in addition to the committee member there should also be a named substitute and both should receive the Welcome Pack. It was hoped that the next committee meeting would be held in person hopefully in the Airport Boardroom. Members who are involved in Council elections were requested to keep the secretariat informed of the results and their future position.

5. Airport Company Report. The Airport advised the committee that business was continuing to improve with particular increases in leisure passenger movements however it still seemed likely that it would be 2 or 3 years before 2019 levels were achieved. The summer season is benefitting from new routes and also airlines like Easyjet, Ryanair, TUI, Corendon and Aer Lingus basing additional aircraft at Newcastle. The Airport continues to recruit in a labour market that is quite tight but is working closely with the Aviation College and hosting Careers Fairs. The Summer Marketing Campaign has commenced and external communications have included activity with both the BBC Look North and ITV Tyne Tees featuring news items underlining improving passenger movements. More retail units are opening up with both WH Smith and Marks and Spencer trading again. Noise complaints remain very low despite the increase in aeroplane activity and all complaints are investigated and complainants answered. A new woodland tree planting scheme has seen 8,000 trees planted in the area around the solar farm to improve the biodiversity and drive down emissions. All tree planting has to recognise the need to avoid bird strikes which means there are limitations on where trees can be situated.

6. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 7th June 2022. The meeting will be either virtual or in person depending on conditions at the time.