

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 02 November 2020

Portfolio:	Policy and Resources
Subject:	Solent Airport Consultative Committee
Report of:	Director of Planning and Regeneration
Corporate Priorities:	Maintain and extend prosperity

Purpose:
To approve the establishment of a Consultative Committee for Solent Airport.

Executive summary:
The establishment of a consultative committee is considered good practice, even at airports that are not required to have one by law. Whilst not decision making, the Solent Airport Consultative Committee will enhance the airport's management and operations by facilitating constructive discussion between interested parties and helping to resolve any differences while maintaining an overview of trends.

Recommendation:
It is recommended that the Executive:

- (a) approves the establishment of a Consultative Committee for Solent Airport, as outlined in the attached report; and
- (b) agrees to appoint a Chairman and Vice-Chairman, together with nominations of three other members of the Consultative Committee from Fareham Borough Council Members.

Reason:
To provide an opportunity for open and effective communication between Solent Airport, their local communities and the users of the airport about the impact of airport operations.

Cost of proposals:
There are no direct financial implications. The administration costs of the Solent Airport Consultative Committee can be absorbed within existing resources.

Appendices

Appendix A: Solent Airport Consultative Committee Draft Terms of Reference

Background papers:

Guidelines for Airport Consultative Committees, Department for Transport, 2014

Reference papers: None

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	02 November 2020
Subject:	Solent Airport Consultative Committee
Briefing by:	Director of Planning and Regeneration
Portfolio:	Policy and Resources

INTRODUCTION

1. Airport Consultative Committees are a well-established way in which airports can communicate openly and effectively with their local communities and the users of the airport about the impact of their operations in the hope that any issues can be resolved amicably. They are structured fora that provide an opportunity for the exchange of information between aerodromes and interested parties and they can make recommendations to the aerodrome management and other bodies when appropriate.
2. Some of the 500 or so aerodromes throughout England, Wales and Scotland are required by law to have facilities for consultation; the Government considers that a consultative committee is the best vehicle for this. Solent Airport is not required to do this by law but, given that it is considered good practice, the Council wishes to establish one.
3. Most Airport Consultative Committees are made up of representatives of users of the airport, local authorities and other organisations from the community surrounding the airport that have an interest in the operations and management of the airport. Topics discussed at meetings can vary widely, but often include environmental issues, airport development, updates on airport operations, an overview of any passenger service issues and surface access.
4. The nature of consultative committees depends upon the type and scale of the aerodrome but they should all recognise the wider role of the airport as an important local employer and influential driver in the local economy, as well as considering the local environmental impacts of an airport. They are not dispute resolution fora and nor do not have any executive or decision-making power over the aerodrome; however, they can facilitate constructive discussion and help resolve differences while maintaining an overview of trends. They also do not prevent interested parties from raising concerns directly with the airport.

PROPOSALS FOR A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR SOLENT AIRPORT

5. The Council proposes to establish a Consultative Committee for Solent Airport to:

- Exchange information and ideas;
 - Consider and comment upon the airport's administration, operation and development, including:
 - Existing and proposed facilities at the airport
 - Surface access issues associated with the airport
 - The environmental impacts of the airport, including noise
 - The role of the airport in the local and regional economy, including as a local employer;
 - Maintain an overview of trends, performance, perceptions, complaints and potential challenges;
 - Make recommendations to the airport management, and other bodies where appropriate.
6. Membership will comprise seven local authority representatives who will be appointed alongside four representatives invited from the users of the airport and a further four representatives invited from the wider community around the airport. The Chairman and Vice Chairman will be appointed by Fareham Borough Council as the Council is the owner of the airport and ultimately responsible for the overall operation of it. A senior representative of the airport management will be present at each meeting.
7. The Consultative Committee will be independent from the airport. Members will be representatives of wider organisations and not appointed in a personal capacity. Organisations seeking to represent their community's interest should have a written constitution and documented membership.
8. Meetings will be held at least twice a year. Fareham Borough Council will provide the secretariat for the Committee and Solent Airport will meet any costs incurred by the provision of venue. Details of the Committee's membership, schedule of meetings and notes of meetings will be available on the website.
9. The existing contract with Regional and City Airports Ltd, who operate the airport on a day to day basis on behalf of the Council, allows for the establishment of a consultative committee.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no direct financial implications. The administration costs of the Solent Airport Consultative Committee can be absorbed within existing resources.

CONCLUSION

11. The establishment of a consultative committee is considered to be good practice, even at airports that are not required to have one by law. The Solent Airport Consultative Committee will enhance the airport's management and operations by facilitating constructive discussion between interested parties and helping to resolve any differences while maintaining an overview of trends.

Enquiries:

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