Minutes of the meeting of the Edinburgh Airport Noise Review Panel (EANRP) on 23rd March 2021

The meeting was held remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Attendees: Robert Carr, EACC Chair and Joint Convener of EANRP, CIIr Kevin Lang as EACC EANRP representative and Joint Convener of EANRP, Janice Hogarth as Secretary to the EACC (and minute taker for the EANRP), Lindsay Cole, the Chair of EANAB and member of EACC, and Ray Godfree, Pippa Plevin & Bruce Finlayson as EANAB EANRP representatives. Gordon Robertson as EAL Representative.

It had been agreed that Robert would chair this meeting and Kevin the following one.

Approval of Draft Minutes of meeting on 9th March 2021 and matters arising

The draft minutes of the 9th March were approved and the following items were considered under matters arising from the action points from the last meeting.

Action points from meeting of 9 March

Gordon Robertson updated EANRP on the social media engagement that he had carried out via tweets and Facebook adverts

Gordon Robertson and Anna Light had been in contact with Janice regarding a data depository by suggesting dropbox which EAL had used previously and was secure. All were in agreement with using this providing it was password protected and that the documents were themselves password protected. The use of separate folders for individuals, EANAB, community councils and themes was discussed. Janice also suggested that she should create a pie chart from survey monkey for review.

Janice advised that a response had been received via contact@EANRP from someone just writing out their comments but not completing the survey and it was agreed that this response would be considered and added to the relevant folder.

Gordon Robertson commented that he had partially answered the questions relating to other noise boards within the EAL response. Discussion followed on the airport agreeing to commit to the recommendation in CAP1616. (Action: Gordon Robertson to provide for EAL more specific details in response to questions Q24 and Q25 in the list provided to EAL on 1 March and to which EAL had answered on 18 March 2021)

Lindsay Cole confirmed that he had recirculated the email to all EANAB members offering them the opportunity of an interview with Robert and Kevin and Robert asked that a copy of this e mail be shared with EANRP. Lindsay also confirmed that he had sent an e mail sharing the responses from EAL. (Action: Lindsay Cole to provide the EANRP members with the emails offering EANAB members the opportunity of an interview with Robert Carr and Kevin Lang and circulating to the EANAB members the EAL survey responses and its answers on 18 March 2021 to the questions.)

Robert commented that he had forwarded a document explaining what 'good' looked like but added that it was a very long document that would need to be refined. Discussion followed on whether it would be better if Edinburgh was a designated airport but it seemed to some that Scottish Government, although they have the power, do not seem interested in this idea.

Update on consultation responses

Janice reported that there had now been a total of 65 responses to the consultation to date with 24 from Community Councils and the remainder from individuals including EANAB members and one MP.

It was agreed that all the individual answers to the consultation should be put in to a single pdf with an index and this then placed into the relevant agreed depository.

Update on EANAB interviews (Kevin and Robert)

Kevin reported that more interviews had been carried out and were now sitting at 6 being held by Robert, Kevin and Janice and one with just Robert & Kevin and more were scheduled.

Edinburgh Airport consultation response and follow up questions

Gordon advised that he had responded to the latest list of questions but added that he will probably need to respond further on points raised by consultees and also EANAB members interviewed.

Division of consultation responses amongst EANRP members

Kevin talked about the various possible themed headings that seemed to be emerging which covered such as Governance, Funding and Resources, and Engagement with community councils. The option of dividing up these subjects was considered, looking at specific themes, but it was recognised that this might not be the best way to review things. Maybe particular groups would consider particular groups of answers.

It was essential that the review should look at best practice and recognise the issues and then debate on them to be able to produce a range of recommendations.

It was felt that it would not be long before a list of issues could be produced and these could then all be considered. This would be as soon as the interviews had been completed.

Discussion on next steps

Gordon had suggested that it would be helpful for Robert, Kevin and Janice to speak to the EAL employees who had been involved with EANAB and attended some of the meetings when he had not been able to. This was agreed and Gordon will forward the contact details for the relevant EAL members of staff and those no longer employed by EAL, once has established that they are happy to be part of the interview process. (Action: Gordon Robertson to contact EAL and past EAL members of staff who attended EANAB meetings to check that they are happy to be interviewed and to forward contact details to Janice Hogarth.)

ICAAN report of 18/03/21 and ACP restart

Gordon gave an update regarding the recent announcement that money had been granted for the restart of the Airspace Change Programme with the news that a masterplan would be produced by ACOG in September. The aim was to get all airports to Phase 2 by the end of 2022 and the funds would need to be used to get all airports to that stage.

Gordon added that the 12th April would be the first date for a meeting to discuss things further. And he added that he saw EANAB as a key stakeholder in this discussion as well as the EACC.

Robert pointed out that EACC had never had an opportunity to speak to date, as promised at a previous EACC meeting, but Robert commented that this would follow as the next engagement would include a chance for EACC to attend a meeting.

Discussion followed on the need to go to the public before a formal decision was made on the routing as there was a need for the right decisions on routings to be made against the design principles

Edinburgh Airport's plan had been rejected by the CAA because of letters from the community suggesting that there had not been enough consultation.

The consultation had been fine regarding the methodology but had fallen down on the change of flights on Route B which was considered not to be enough in relation to the MOD use of air space. EAL only have control over a designated area which did not cover the Isle of May, but now working with NATS, EAL have a better scope and the use of flights along the Forth are a possibility.

Gordon accepted that EAL had learnt lessons from their last submission and will share the document on lessons learned with EANRP. (Action: Gordon Robertson to share document on lessons learned from previous ACP submission and roadmap for the consultation and engagement programme by EAL going forward)

Comment was made that there needed to be a balance of noise levels against business. Capacity should be reviewed so that noise levels could be spread out during the day.

Bruce added that it had not previously been a collaborative engagement but hoped that it would be better this time around.

Gordon acknowledged that Simon Rhodes was now head of ACP and hat his knowledge as an Air traffic controller would be really helpful moving forwards.

AOCB

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 6th April at 1800 with Kevin in the chair