

Exeter Airport Consultative Committee

Minutes – 11 September 2025

1. Present – Steve Wiltshire, Claire Cottrell, Will Campbell, Francis Pullman (Chair), Dave Moore, Toby Russell, Paula Fernley, Ann McLaird, Alexandra Robinson, Gary Collier, Sue Scott (Secretary).
2. Apologies – Matt Vizard, Paul Hayward.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2025 confirmed.
4. Will Campbell, General Manager of Exeter Aerospace gave information on the business of Exeter Aerospace.
 - a. Budgeted hours for 2025 sits at around 220,000 manhours, with a revenue turnover over around £22,000,000. The facility we have has the potential for 350,000 – 400,000 manhours to be produced.
 - b. We are making working extremely hard to future proof and build on the foundations put in place so far with strong relationships being built with Exeter University and Exeter College.
 - c. Recruitment of licensed engineers is a challenge. This is down to a worldwide shortage of skilled licensed engineers and salaries we can offer. We are competing for business that can potentially go to Eastern Europe on a much cheaper labour rate. Our challenge is finding and training local people.
 - d. Head count in Exeter will be up to 170 employees.
 - e. 3rd year of apprentices starts next week taking us up to 18 in total.
 - f. Our 2nd bootcamp training course funded by Devon County Council starts later this month and a 3rd course starts in January next year with a total of 35 people across both courses guaranteed an interview on successful completion of the 12 week course.
 - g. Our long term customers are now returning for their winter maintenance programme, with Finnair starting on the 1st, SAAs starting on the 2nd. BA started on Monday and Emeralds base maintenance starting next Monday.
 - h. BA offering the most significant of manhours with around 90000, around 40000 with Finnair and SAS and 30000 with Emerald.
 - i. We also have strong ties with Airbourne Colours aircraft paint facility positioned on the northside of the airport.
5. A tour of the maintenance facility was undertaken.
6. Stephen Wiltshire, Managing Director of Exeter Airport, reported on the current business and future plans.

Stakeholders Group Meeting – Directors Update 11th September 2025.

 - a. FY 26
 - i. April 25 43,322 (9,318)
 - ii. May 25 58,311 (10,877)
 - iii. June 25 69,912 (10,991) 10% down on prior year

- iv. July 25 71,912 (12,206) 10% down on prior year
 - v. August 25 76,639 (12,490)
- b. KLM – Launch
 - i. 31st March 25, off to good start, loads and operationally
- c. TUI Airlines
 - i. 22 May – second aircraft, good loads and bedding in well
- d. ZCT Trial
 - i. 29 April, Collaboration with TUI, Ulemco, Cranfield University
- e. Royal Mail
 - i. Last flight was 4 April 2025
- f. Others
 - i. Summer routes healthy loads, no disruption, 26 destinations in nine countries, new route to Faro (Portugal).
 - ii. 10 Ryanair Flights to Palma 2 x weekly, and 4 x Alicante 2 x Faro continuing after successful season last summer plus 2 x Malaga.
 - iii. Second Malaga for Winter
 - 1. FY26 – forecast 588,000
- g. Domestically operation 6 routes
 - i. Belfast, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Jersey, Guernsey and Isles of Scilly
 - ii. 243 FTE (291 individuals)
 - iii. Airport Carbon Accreditation level 2 target for this year and re-published target for Net Zero 2040
- h. Route growth
 - i. Paris, second Amsterdam, Polish route, Malta, Additional Ryanair frequency
 - ii. Manchester starts October 25
- 7. Claire Cottrell, Compliance Manager and Sustainability Lead of Exeter Airport, reported on noise complaints.
 - a. There have been 31, year to date.
 - b. This is slightly higher than normal and may be due to the second TUI aircraft.
 - c. There have been more reports from West Hill and Ottery.
- 8. There was a discussion about the flights over Clyst St Mary and West Hill. Both of these are outside the Air Traffic Zone so the airport cannot control the routing of the aircraft.
Francis Pullman (Chair) will write to TUI to see if they can modify flight paths to avoid the villages affected. He will report back at the next meeting.
- 9. AOB
 - a. None
- 10. The next meeting will be held at Exeter Airport on 19th November 2025 at 14:00.
They have kindly offered a tour of the terminal building.