



Belfast City Council

Report to: Development Committee
Subject: Belfast International Airport Consultative Forum
Date: 23 August 2011
Reporting Officer: John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer: Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

1 Relevant Background Information

1.1 Recent correspondence from Belfast International Airport (BIA) has confirmed that the airport plans to establish an Airport Consultative Forum. A request for officer representation from Belfast City Council on the forum has been received.

2 Key Issues

2.1 The Airports (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 includes an article which stipulates that the airport operator shall provide a platform for consultation regarding the management or administration of the airport. There are a number of broad categories of users to be involved in this including:

- Consumer Council for Northern Ireland
- The district council in whose district the airport is located
- Any other organisation representing the interests of those based in the locality in which the airport is situated.

2.2 Belfast International Airport plans to establish a forum. It anticipates that the key functions of the forum will be to:

- Help BIA understand and respond to passengers' expectations and needs
- Advise BIA on measures to enhance and develop facilities and services to assist BIA in their strategic objective of increasing passenger, airline and destination growth
- Review passenger information through the eyes of the public and provide recommendations to BIA
- Review the extent to which passenger and airline or service satisfaction surveys are fit for future purpose and provide recommendations to BIA, and to commission research or surveys as appropriate, on behalf of BIA
- Identify external gaps that limit the passenger growth and/or experience including infrastructure, aviation strategy, value of money, accessibility, regulation etc.

2.3	An airport forum has been operational at Belfast City Airport for some time. There is both Member and officer representation on the forum. The two BCC members on the forum are Councillors Adam Newton and Tom Haire.
2.4	The following organisations have been invited to nominate representatives to the forum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consumer Council for NI – Antrim Borough Council – Belfast City Council – NI Chamber of Commerce – Travel trade representative – NITB – Templepatrick Action Group – Killead residents – Institute of Directors – Tourism Ireland – Department for Regional Development (as an observer) – Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment (as an observer)
2.5	Councillor Mervyn Rea has been nominated as the Antrim Borough Council representative on the forum. There is no officer representation from Antrim.
2.6	Belfast International Airport has issued an invitation to the Head of Economic Initiatives to be a representative on the new Forum. The first meeting of the forum took place on 9 March 2011. It is expected that meetings will take place on a quarterly basis.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	No specific financial resources. The HR implications will include attendance at quarterly meetings.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	Membership of the forum will be equality proofed by the airport.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to note the request from Belfast International Airport for officer representation on the Airport forum.

6	Decision Tracking
Updates on issues raised at forum meetings will be presented at future meetings of the Development Committee, as appropriate.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
BIA – Belfast International Airport	

