

Cllr. Margaret Phipps - Bournemouth Airport Report

On 12th November 2015 I attended the Bournemouth Airport Consultative Committee, and these are a few notes from that meeting.

Passenger numbers are currently 575,000 for this year which is 3.8% better than budget, so as of the date of the meeting the Airport was in a strong position. However, on 12th September Royal Mail had announced that all mail and newspaper operations will cease as from 13th December 2015. This means that a large chunk of their income will be lost, so they need to look at how they are going to manage the situation. As the mail plane flies at night, it has been decided to make a significant reduction in night operations. From 13th December the Airport's published operating hours will be 06.30 to 21.30, however, they will still retain the ability to function up to 01.45 so that their base commercial aircraft (Thompson/Ryanair/Easy Jet) can operate. This will reduce their core costs to help mitigate the lost income.

On 10th November Flybe made the sudden announcement that their base at the Airport will cease from 27th March 2016. They will remove their Glasgow flight in early January and then pull out completely in March. This was a second blow and an extreme disappointment for the Airport, as they say many of routes were working well. Flybe have made strategic changes to their flight operations, with Bournemouth being a casualty of their decisions.

The loss of Royal Mail and Flybe is a big setback to the Airport growth plans, but they say they remain positive. They are talking to other commercial airlines to replace the lost routes, although it may not be possible for replacement in 2016 as it is past the planning date for then, but they are looking to 2017. This setback has happened suddenly, during what was a period of success for the Airport, and they say they will come out fighting to regain business.

Further reports were presented at the meeting regarding other Airport related matters, which also included the good progress with employment developments at the Business Park, but I thought that the above would be of most interest. If anyone wants more information about the meeting, please contact me. I have attached a copy of the 2014 Bournemouth Airport Monitoring Report for information.