

Minutes of the Cross-Party Group on Aviation

Date: 6 February 2019

Time: 6pm-8pm

Venue: Committee Room 4

MSPs attendees:

David Stewart – Convenor

Stewart Stevenson – Co-Convenor

Tavish Scott – Co-Convenor

Maurice Corry – Group member

Bill Bowman – Group member

Rhoda Grant

Non MSPs attendees:

Henk van Klaveren - Airport Operators Association

John Davidson

Andy Evans – Aerossurance

Sandy MacPherson – Scottish Passengers Agents' Association

James McColm

David Paterson – Flybe

Roddie MacPhee - Barrhead Trave

Ian Clarke – NATS

David McColm – Global Trek Aviation

Gordon Bingham – Global Trek Aviation

Phill Rawlins – Martyn Fiddler Aviation

John Innes – Leonardo

Daniel Smith – Skyrora

Maurizio Tomasella – University of Edinburgh Business School

Brian McLean – AGS Aiports

Alan Campbell – International Airlines Group

Mark Phillips – Lockheed Martin

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and apologies

David Stewart MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and accepted apologies.

Agenda Item 2 - Approval of minutes from previous meeting and matters arising

Minutes from the previous meeting have been accepted with no matters arising. Minutes to be put on the website.

Agenda Item 3 - Sustainable Aviation - an update on progress

Henk van Klaveren from Airport Operators Association gave a presentation on behalf of Andy Jefferson unable to attend on Sustainable Aviation

Key Points:

Sustainable Aviation Vision:

- To enhance the benefits of air transport, while removing or minimising any impacts on the local and global environment

Role:

- To develop practical and policy solutions for cleaner, quieter, smarter flying

Approach:

- Engage regularly with stakeholders to communicate our work and to understand their priorities, aim to be a trusted and credible source of information , focus on the UK, however work takes place in a global context

Findings, Progress and Opportunities

Road-Map: Noise

- Good progress against commitments in 2013 Road-Map. Commissioned independent research in 2017 to further understand concerns of communities – publication of a discussion paper in 2018 on the findings to identify the most effective solutions to manage the impact of aircraft noise

Road-Map: CO2

- Current technologies and procedures will allow a 75% reduction in CO2 emissions per passenger kilometre and a 90% reduction in NOx emission by 2050.

Sustainable aviation fuels:

- 18-24% reduction in CO2 from UK aviation potential by supporting use of sustainable aviation fuels in the UK. UK airlines currently supporting landfill waste and waste gas to jet fuel innovations

Air quality:

- Many initiatives currently being led by the UK Aviation Industry to reduce emissions around UK airports – from reduced aircraft engine taxi to use of electric vehicles

Challenges, Opportunities

- Exploring opportunities for ‘net zero’ CO2 flight – Global Climate Targets
- Quieter flying - meaningful benefits for those impacted

Next steps: 2019

- An update to the SA Fuels Road-Map in Spring
- An update to the SA CO2 Road-Map by the end of the year
- Engage with the Government around the Aviation Strategy and need for ‘Smarter’ Government

Agenda Item 4. UK Space Launch

Mark Phillips from Lockheed Martin UK gave a presentation on UK Space Launch Programme.

Key points:

Received grants in July 2018 on UK Space Launch Programme

- Highlands and Islands Enterprise to develop a vertical launch site in Sutherland

Mark briefed members of the group on 3 projects being developed

- UK Launch Pathfinder – with an aim to bringing rocket to UK (Scotland) and launching it
- OMV project – research purposes – built in UK
- 6U CubeSat Pathfinder

Members of the Cross-Party Group were briefed on

- benefits of spaceport being located in Scotland including ease of access and exclusion zone,
- economic benefits including
£2.5bn contribution to GDP (2017-2031)
375 FTE jobs supported per year (2017-2031), generating £165mIn in revenue – 47% of direct jobs in Scotland
- Community outreach/STEM including Engineering Industry Day at North Highland College, Thurso and Engineering Development Trust STEM Workshop at University of Strathclyde

Following the presentations questions and discussion concentrated around spaceport location with Prestwick being an example and constraints in Scottish space sector.

Main constraints were identified around ongoing work on developing regulations for UK Launch versus importance of being first on the market.

Agenda Item 5 - Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 14th May 2019

The following subjects have been submitted for future meetings:

- Growing intrusion into airports. Anti-drone Technology
- Aviation tutorial for schools
- APD

The meeting ends