

Change of Funding Arrangements for Improvements to the B3073

1. At the March 2014 ACRA Quarterly Meeting we learned that there had been some changes made to the funding arrangements for planned improvements to the B3073. These changes were thought to be directly related to the airport's failure to meet projected passenger throughput targets that were associated with the original funding plan.
2. This matter is substantially dealt with in a paper to CBC Planning Control Committee dated 27th February 2014 prepared by CBC Development Management Manager (*sic*) Giles Moir. At that meeting the CBC Planning Committee agreed to the proposed changes.
3. In August 2007 the airport was granted planning permission for extensive work on the terminal's facilities which included payment by the airport to DCC of £900,000 to fund road improvements. £100,000 of that was due and paid in December 2007
4. The balance of £800,000 was originally payable within a further 12 months but that deadline was extended by mutual agreement to April 2014.
5. The 2014 request to again vary the agreement was as follows:
 - 5.1. £50,000 payable by 31st March 2014
 - 5.2. £50,000 payable by 30th April 2014
 - 5.3. £233,333 payable in the financial year that immediately follows the first financial year in which passenger throughput exceeds 1.2 million passengers
 - 5.4. An additional £233,333 payable in the financial year that immediately follows the first financial year in which passenger throughput exceeds 1.8 million passengers
 - 5.5. A third and final amount of £233,333 payable in the financial year that immediately follows the first financial year in which passenger throughput exceeds 2.4 million passengers
6. Passenger numbers are currently around 700,000 a year and are not now forecast to reach 1 million passengers until 2025. It is clear the airport is struggling to maintain financial viability.
7. DCC had indicated when consulted that they could not agree to this latest request to change the funding arrangements and still put into effect the planned changes to the B3073 according to the previous timetable. It follows that the timing for planned improvements to the B3073 at Hurn Village is now unknown.

Jim Biggin

March 2014