

## **Community Update**

## Airlines On Track for Success

Airlines operating from Birmingham have been recognised for their contribution to reducing community disturbance through the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Operation Pathfinder awards.

Councillor Ken Meeson, Leader of Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, joined Airport Chief Executive Paul Kehoe to present the awards at a ceremony staged at the Airport in April.

Operation Pathfinder was established in 2006 as a forum for airlines, Air Traffic Control provider NATS and the Airport's own environment team, to work together to improve environmental performance at Birmingham. The initial aim of the group was to improve track-keeping performance, - raising the percentage of departing flights that stayed within designated noise routes. In 2012 almost 99% of flights were on-track, well-ahead of the 95% target set by the Airport.



at Speaking the awards ceremony, Councillor Meeson thanked representatives some of the major airlines flying from Birmingham for their commitment to reducing the impact of their operations on the residents of Solihull and surrounding areas. Among the best performers were Ryanair. who won the best trackkeeping award for airlines operating more than 200 flights each month and Thomson, who won the award in the more than 100 flights per month category.

Selim Ozturk of Turkish Airlines with Cllr Ken Meeson (left) and Paul Kehoe (right)

Top performers though, were Turkish Airlines, who won the best track-keeping award in the category for airlines operating more than 50 flights per month with an unblemished 100% ontrack record. Other airlines recognized were Aer Lingus, Eastern Airways, Flybe, Monarch Airlines, Thomas Cook Airlines and Thomson Airways.

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Mark Howarth receives an award for Thomas Cook

Since its early days, the scope of the forum has moved on to include other measures to improve environmental performance, such as the use of Continuous Descent Approaches (CDAs). CDAs are an operational technique reduces noise, emissions and fuel consumption and our work on them now forms part of the national 'Sustainable Aviation' initiative, set up by the aviation industry to drive improvements in environmental performance by challenging setting targets to reduce noise and emissions.

With the collaboration of its partners, Birmingham Airport is now leading the way in reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from aircraft both in the air and on the ground.