



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**21 February 2007**

### **Campaigners welcome strong message for airport on traffic, noise and climate change concerns**

The Stop Bristol Airport Expansion campaign (SBAE) has welcomed the strong message sent by North Somerset Council (NSC) to Bristol International Airport (BIA) through their vote at last night's council meeting: that NSC has significant concerns over traffic congestion, loss of local biodiversity, pollution, and climate change. The mood of the chamber indicated that these concerns should be properly addressed before any further development could be discussed.

In response to last night's vote, SBAE has issued the following statement:

*We welcome North Somerset Council's vote, which makes clear to BIA their significant concerns over traffic congestion, loss of local biodiversity, and pollution.*

*In particular we welcomed last night's debate on the climate change effects of expanding the airport and the unanimous mood of support in the council chamber, which added climate change to their list of concerns to be communicated to BIA.*

*We look forward to seeing the full and independent assessments of environmental, biodiversity, and economic impacts of any development that NSC has called for.*

*However, we believe that the majority of the concerns referred to in last night's motion cannot be solved.*

*This includes the contradiction between expanding Bristol airport whilst calling for reductions in emissions from Bristol Industry in order to meet climate change targets from Government and the South West Regional Assembly.*

*We are therefore calling for strong leadership from NSC in heeding these concerns and following the example of Uttlesford District Council in rejecting any further expansion of Bristol International Airport.*

**ENDS**

For all media enquiries please contact: Susan Pearson on 0117 966 6591 or 07891 460942.

Visit [www.stopbia.com](http://www.stopbia.com) for further information on SBAE.

## Notes

Last night's full council meeting of North Somerset Council passed the following recommendation:

That the BIA Master Plan be noted and the airport advised of this council's significant concerns regarding the following issues:

- 1) the absence of a viable and sustainable surface access strategy, evidenced by the anticipated growth in private vehicle movements on roads in the area, the proposed growth in onsite parking spaces and their *proposed* expansion outside the original airport perimeter, and the lack of sufficient compensatory public transport services;
  - 2) the need for independent environmental and biodiversity impact assessment prior to any development being authorised to answer anticipated growth in noise and other pollution issues *arising from aircraft and motor cars, and also light pollution and water run-off from existing and planned hard surfaces together with an assessment of potential solutions*;
  - 3) the need to identify committed funding for works to overcome the above issues in (1) and (2) ahead of any new development of the airport services, including Regional Assembly, Government and private funding allocations;
  - 4) the need for an independent assessment into the economic *cost/benefit* impact on local *and regional businesses* as a result of the proposed retail expansion, onsite hotel and monopolised car parking and taxi services;
  - 5) the need to consider any other detailed issues raised through the Council's *internal and public* consultation and the officers' conclusions.
- (6) Amendment to original motion – discussed and passed - We call for full consideration of the Stern Report relating to Climate Change effects of an expanded Airport.

We particularly note the apparent contradictions of expanding Bristol airport whilst calling for reductions in emissions from Bristol Industry in order to attain Government targets within our Kyoto Treaty obligations, and as outlined in the Regional Economic Strategy of the SWRA.