



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Campaigners call for airport concerns to be highlighted in councils' major policy consultation

The Stop Bristol Airport Expansion group (SBAE) is calling for North Somerset Council (NSC) to spell out Bristol airport's expansion as a major issue when it puts together the area's long term planning strategy, now under public consultation.

The campaigners say that it is crucial that Bristol International Airport's (BIA) proposed development be given prominence in NSC's Core Strategy document. They are also calling for council policy to ensure that curtailments are placed on BIA's future growth in terms of aircraft movements and passenger numbers.

North Somerset's Core Strategy document will become the main planning blueprint for North Somerset until 2026 and the reference document for development at Bristol airport (BIA).

In the meantime, passenger numbers at the airport are expected to carry on growing to seven million passengers next year, despite BIA's Master Plan, published in November 2006, forecasting passenger numbers of approximately 6.7million a year by 2010. [1]

Campaign spokeswoman Hilary Burn said: "The current consultation on NSC's Core Strategy will be really significant in shaping the future of North Somerset. It is crucial that the public respond, asking NSC to treat Bristol airport's development as a major category and to put curtailments on the airport's growth.

"The 5000 plus objections to last year's consultation on BIA's Master Plan gave a clear signal to North Somerset that local communities oppose the airport's expansion plans."

The huge wave of objections to the airport's expansion plans were received by North Somerset Council last year from members of the public and local parishes. Many raised concerns about increased noise, more traffic on local roads, air and light pollution, loss of tranquillity, climate change and an economic argument that does not stack up.

Bath and North-East Somerset (B&NES) Council is also currently consulting on its Core Strategy. Many communities close to the airport and affected by its operation are in fact in B&NES. SBAE is also calling for B&NES Council to highlight the airport in its policy and is asking the public to respond to their local consultation.

NSC's Core Strategy consultation runs until 30 November 2007. The public can respond by writing to: Planning Policy Team, North Somerset Council, Somerset House, Oxford Street, Weston super Mare BS23 1TG or emailing: planning.policy@n-somerset.gov.uk, giving the subject title as 'Response to Core Strategy Consultation'.

B&NES's Core Strategy runs until 17th December 2007. The public should write to Planning policy, Planning Services, Trimbridge house, Trim Street, Bath BA1 4DP or email planning_policy@bathnes.gov.uk giving the subject

title 'Response to Core Strategy Consultation'.

More information from www.stopbia.com

The campaigners are also calling for both the North Somerset and B&NES Core Strategies to:

- Avoid presuming that BIA's expansion will take place, as the planning process is not yet complete
- Keep the green belt status to the south side at BIA, preventing any car parking any green belt areas
- Recommend that St Katherine's School, which is next to the airport, be relocated as soon as possible
- Make sure a proper policy assessing the long term costs of emissions from BIA's flights is in situ before any further expansion takes place
- Keep the current night noise quota system unchanged and restrict the movements that are currently included, moving to a complete ban on night time flying.

ENDS

For media enquiries, contact Susan Pearson on: 07891 460942

Notes

[1] Bristol International Airport Master Plan, 2006, (p31, table 5).