



**Immediate Release**

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## **AIRPORT MUST DO ITS BIT FOR LOW CARBON BRISTOL**

Campaigners are calling on Bristol City Council to promote alternatives to flying for people in the region as part of the city's status as a Low Carbon City.

Bristol was revealed as one of three cities in the country piloting the Low Carbon City initiative, by Climate Change Minister Joan Ruddock at a summit last week. The city will receive financial support from the government to help champion low carbon lifestyles [1].

Campaigners from the Stop Bristol Airport Expansion group welcomed the new status which it said was an important step forward for Bristol. But the group urged Bristol City Council to ensure that all forms of transport were included in the low carbon plans – including steps to discourage flying.

Flying is one of the most carbon intensive forms of travel, and the fastest growing source of carbon dioxide emissions in the UK.

SBAE spokesman Jeremy Birch said:

“It is good to see the local council and the government working together to promote low carbon lifestyles. But if Bristol's low carbon status is to mean anything, it must include policies to encourage people to reduce the need to fly. Many businesses in the city already make use of video-conferencing and travel by train, but we'd like to see the council encouraging others to do the same.

Bristol City Council was also one of eight councils at the summit to sign a pledge with the Government to act on carbon, including a commitment to:

“Use available planning, licensing and transport powers to reduce fossil fuel use by improving public transport, reducing the need to travel, tackling congestion and providing alternatives to private car usage” [2].

But campaigners said the money being offered by the Government to support the scheme should be increased. The Government announced it was providing £250,000 to support the carbon management initiatives in eight cities, with Bristol, Manchester and Leeds tasked with developing city-wide carbon action plans [3].

Jeremy Birch said:

“If the Government wants to make a real difference to carbon emissions, it needs to show more financial commitment. This support is peanuts compared to the amount of money being spent on road schemes and other carbon intensive development.”

ENDS

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Notes:

[1] SBAE has written to the Chief Executive of Bristol City Council following the announcement – see <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/071108e.htm>

[2] <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/071108e.htm>

[3] <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/ministers/speeches/joan-ruddock/jr071108.htm>