



## **Stop Bristol Airport Expansion Campaign Press Release**

Immediate Release: Tuesday 2 September

# **GREEN BELT MUST STAY AT AIRPORT, COUNCILLORS AGREE**

North Somerset councillors called for the green belt at Bristol International Airport to be left intact last night, in a move welcomed by Stop Bristol Airport Expansion.

Members of the Strategic Planning and Economic Development Policy and Scrutiny Panel are urging North Somerset Council's Executive Committee to back their decision when they meet on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September.

The discussion follows a proposal in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West to alter the Green Belt. Bristol International Airport has expressed an interest in building a further car park to the south side of the airport, on land covered by the green belt.

Commenting on the Council's decision, Stop Bristol Airport Expansion spokeswoman Hilary Burn said:

"Councillors are right to be concerned about the impacts of removing the green belt at the airport. It is there to protect the peace and tranquillity of the Mendip Hills which are an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We hope that the council's executive will back this call and that the Secretary of State will listen to local concerns.

"Allowing the airport to build more car parks on green belt land would mean yet more car journeys to and from the airport and would provide no incentive to encourage the use of public transport. This would mean more and more traffic on local roads causing congestion, air pollution and contributing to climate change. It would be bad news for the environment and bad news for people locally."

The proportion of passengers using public transport to get to Bristol International Airport is one of the lowest in the country [1].

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Notes:

[1] According to the BIA Masterplan, 5% of passengers use public transport to travel to the airport compared to 22% at Birmingham, 10% at Liverpool, 10% at Manchester and 11% at Newcastle (p109).