



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

15 September 2008

AIRPORT EXPANSION BID DEFIES ECONOMY AND THE CLIMATE BIA says passenger numbers to reach 10 million by 2016

Stop Bristol Airport Expansion campaigners have attacked Bristol International Airport's plans to increase passenger numbers to 10 million per annum by 2016, included in new planning documents submitted to North Somerset Council [1].

The documents, submitted as another UK airline collapsed as a result of high oil prices [2], show the airport is pressing ahead with expansion plans despite the current economic climate and the urgent need to reduce carbon emissions to tackle climate change.

According to the submission, the airport intends to extend the apron to make room for more aircraft - as well as expanding car parking facilities into the Green Belt.

SBAE spokesperson Hilary Burn said:

"These documents show that Bristol International Airport is pushing ahead with expansion and has failed to recognise the new realities required to move to a low carbon economy. It must wake up to the fact that until a substitute for aviation fuel is found, dreams of expansion are a nonsense.

"Given aviation's contribution to climate change, it would be madness to allow Bristol International Airport to continue expanding in this way. The planning authorities - and the UK Government - must face up to the scientific facts on aviation and ensure that airports and airlines take action to reduce emissions on the scale required."

A survey by the Times earlier this year found that nearly half of the British public has vowed to fly less in the coming year to help the environment. Twenty three per cent said they would only fly with those airlines that have a clear green strategy [3].

As well as losing flights to Tenerife and Crete due to the collapse of XL, Bristol International Airport is to lose its RyanAir flight to Derry from October [4] and flights to Pau, Porto, Salzburg and Rzeszow in the winter timetable [5]. In September FlyGlobeSpan also said it was cancelling flights from Bristol [6].

Contact: Helen Burley 07703 731923

Notes:

[1] The Environmental Impact Assessment for a scoping opinion was submitted as application 08/P/1951/EIA08/P/1951/EIA by Bristol International Airport to North Somerset Council on 9th September 2008

[2] XL Leisure Group ceased trading on Friday 12th September, leading to the cancellation of all XL flights from Bristol Airport.

[3] http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/industry_sectors/transport/article3841751.ece

[4] http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/foyle_and_west/7605758.stm

[5] <http://www.thisisbristol.co.uk/news/Airline-axes-routes-winter-Bristol/article-308524-detail/article.html>

[6] <http://www.nebusiness.co.uk/business-news/latest-business-news/2008/09/05/budget-carrier-flyglobespan-said-it-was-still-in-discussion-this-week-with-durham-tees-valley-airport-over-its-summer-2009-flight-schedule-51140-21682017/>