



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stop Bristol Airport Expansion : Government agrees we were right on climate change

We've been right all along on climate change Stop Bristol Airport Expansion (SBAE) said today following the Government's slamming of previous policy on airports as failing to give enough weight to the climate change impacts of aviation.

Transport Secretary Phil Hammond has condemned Labour's 2003 Aviation White Paper, on which Bristol Airport's planning permission was based, as "fundamentally out-of-date." Speaking as he launched the Government's Scoping Document, which marks the start of the process for drawing up a new aviation policy,¹ he said the previous government had "got the balance wrong" because it failed to give enough weight to climate change and the local environmental impacts of aviation.

Hammond described climate change as "one of the gravest threats we face" and has thrown out a challenge to the aviation to get its noise and emissions under control in order that it can grow within a "genuinely sustainable framework".

SBAE said that plans to expand Bristol airport from 6 million to 10 million passengers by 2019 could see carbon emissions more than double and serious impacts for local communities such as increased traffic and noise, arguments that were not given enough consideration by North Somerset Council when it granted planning permission for Bristol Airport's plans last May.

Speaking for SBAE, Jeremy Birch and Hilary Burn said:

"We welcome the Government's new approach on aviation which echoes the climate change and other concerns we've been campaigning on for nearly six years. It's now crucial that these concerns are given their full weight in holding Bristol Airport to account.

"We need to see real action, not just words, at a local as well as national level if we are to maintain the UK as the global leader in fighting climate change.

"We need the aviation industry to make technological improvements to aircrafts now not in 20 years time in order that emissions are reduced and planes are less noisy."

SBAE said that by 2019 the extra carbon emissions from Bristol Airport's flights would be more than produced by all the cars in Bristol and would have double the climate change impact as aviation emissions are at least twice as damaging as emissions from other sources. There were over 5000 objections to the airport's plans, including from Bristol City and B&NES councils and local health authorities, against only 300 letters of support.

The document is out to consultation until September. In July the Government will issue revised forecasts for aviation. Also in July it will

outline its response to the Committee on Climate Change on how much aviation can grow and still remain within the national targets to reduce CO2 emissions.

ENDS

For further information contact: Susan Pearson on 07891 460942 or visit: www.stopbia.com to see how we respond to this consultation

Notes

1] Scoping document 'Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation' available at the Department for Transport's website: www.dft.gov.uk