

16 February 2021

By Email only:

Leanne.palmer@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Ms Palmer,

Appeal reference: APP/D0121/W/20/3259234

CBI SW continue to champion connectivity and transport infrastructure as major priorities for the region. Air connectivity is a vital component of this, especially given UK priorities around developing new global trading links.

As such, we want to add our support to Bristol Airport's appeal against the decision North Somerset Council made to reject their expansion plans. Bristol Airport's planning application sets out why expansion of capacity from the current limit of 10 million passengers per annum (mppa) to 12mppa is vital for the region.

As the UK's eighth largest airport, Bristol Airport is one of the key drivers of prosperity for North Somerset, Bristol, and the South West, supporting nearly 30,000 direct and indirect jobs and contributing around £1.7bn to the regional economy.

Expansion proposals will help meet the region's growing demand for air travel, create new international opportunities for the South West's world class businesses, and be a significant step towards the Government's levelling-up ambitions.

The increased connectivity which Bristol Airport's expansion would deliver can be an important part of the South West's economic recovery as the region looks to build an economic recovery with sustainability at its heart. The airport's Carbon and Climate Action Plan, alongside the 15% reduction in emissions already achieved over the last four years, clearly demonstrates their level of ambition when it comes to achieving carbon neutrality by 2025.

Yours sincerely,



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