

CBI EVIDENCE TO APPEAL BY BRISTOL AIRPORT LIMITED RELATING TO BRISTOL AIRPORT, NORTH SIDE ROAD

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North Somerset Council Reference: 18/P/5118/OUT

Introduction

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) welcomes the opportunity to provide evidence to this inquiry. The CBI is the UK's leading business organisation, speaking for some 190,000 businesses that together employ around a third of the private sector workforce. With offices across the UK as well as representation in Brussels, Washington, Beijing, and Delhi, the CBI communicates the British business voice around the world. With members representing businesses of all sizes and sectors, most importantly, the users of aviation services, the CBI is well placed to give evidence about the whole economy value of Bristol Airport's plans for investment in new infrastructure and an increase in the cap on passenger numbers at Bristol Airport to 12 million passengers per annum.

Key points of evidence

The CBI supports Bristol Airport's expansion plans because:

- **As the UK recovers from Coronavirus and plans for a new post-Brexit trading environment, firms nationwide will rely on a thriving, internationally competitive aviation industry to reach customers across the world.**
 - Bristol Airport is the regional airport for the South West, linking the region to global centres of commerce and new markets to explore. Good connectivity is a vital element in underpinning growth within the region. A strong network of air connections is an important factor in both attracting inward investment and enabling local firms to exploit investment opportunities overseas.
 - A wide range of firms have faced severe adverse consequences from the UK's decline in international connectivity during the Coronavirus pandemic. Business therefore recognises the strategic importance of investment in increasing capacity at Bristol Airport during the recovery for their long-term competitiveness.
 - Expanding capacity will mean that the airport will be able to increase domestic connections to the North of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The airport will be able to explore new destinations in Europe and further afield in the Middle East and North America further widening access to export markets.
 - Crucially, Bristol Airport is the largest in the South West. An expansion would allow it to become a hub for business travel and reduce the need for passengers to drive to London Airports. The airports proximity to economic centres of Bristol and Bath and its connectivity to the wider South West will facilitate trade in both goods and services and drive up productivity across the region.
 - Delivering on improvements to airport access, whether by road upgrades or other means, will help signal that the Bristol remains open as a regional gateway to welcome inward investment. Constraining our region's airport risks cutting South West businesses off from the world or forcing them to use airports outside the region, putting them at a competitive disadvantage.

- **Businesses recognise the wider role Bristol Airport plays supporting a long supply-chain of firms across the South West.**
 - The planned development and additional passenger volumes through the airport would add 710 direct jobs at Bristol Airport and 5,000 jobs regionally; bring an estimated £430 million to the South West of England and South Wales economy at a difficult time for the sector.
 - Bristol Airport supports a complex eco-system of aviation services companies based in and around the South West of England. Increased capacity at the airport will be essential for these businesses to succeed and for the UK to play a leadership role in international efforts to develop low carbon solutions for air travel
- **Businesses welcome the publication of the Government's Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP) and Bristol airport's commitment to be carbon neutral for direct emissions by 2021 and a net zero airport by 2030**
 - Businesses across the South West are committed to meeting net zero targets, Airbus is developing the world's first zero-emission commercial aircraft powered by hydrogen. Whilst the Future of Flight Challenge project is looking at the feasibility of an air taxi service in the South West Region. With end-to-end consortium partners including Rolls Royce developing the electric motors, Honeywell who are developing the control systems and Bristol Airport enabling the South West region to provide a test bed for urban and rural air taxi flights.
 - The Government has launched a consultation on Jet Zero alongside the Transport Decarbonisation Plan, with an ambition to reach net zero aviation by 2050. The DTP states:

"Delivering this will require ambitious action across a number of key areas: the development of new zero emission aircraft, accelerating the supply and uptake of SAF, modernisation of our airspace and airports and the development of trusted and verifiable markets to offset residual emissions." i

Rather than placing restrictions on airport growth the Government's strategy is to work with Sustainable Aviation and the rest of the industry to accelerate the move towards net zero. Significant investment will be required to meet these targets, supported by business growth. The expansion of Bristol airport will facilitate this growth, in part, providing the investment required to meet the target of a net zero airport.
 - Bristol Airport plans to implement ambitious new public transport targets; new bus and coach services across the region alongside improvements to the A38. These improved transport links to the airport will not only increase connectivity and enhance business use of the airport, but will be key to encouraging more passengers to take greener journeys to the airport.