

Open letter to the inquiry from Green Party and Independent councillors across the West of England

We write to you to emphasise the crucial importance of the climate and ecological emergency in your consideration of this appeal.

We are Green Party and Independent councillors who have been working at every level of government to try to ensure a swift and very genuine transition to a net zero carbon UK. Together we represent 265,833 residents in the West of England (including North Somerset), which is 22.9% of the total population.

It is absolutely crucial to our survival that we take the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions very seriously indeed. We no longer have the luxury of making the wrong decisions about the effects of our actions on the climate, time is too short. Report after report tells us we are in imminent danger of reaching irreversible and catastrophic 'tipping points' in the over-heating of the planet.

No project is too large or too small to play its part in preventing this.

Bristol Airport may try to make the case that its proposed expansion will only increase the problem by a small amount, but any increases it causes are unacceptable.

This proposal comes at a time when we are asking people to engage with the climate emergency and make choices to lessen their carbon footprint, even in small ways. How can we ask this of individuals, if businesses such as the airport are permitted to undermine such efforts by expanding and adding dramatically to the problem?

The proposed expansion by Bristol Airport at this time will negate a very significant proportion of the carbon saving that our local councils and residents are working so hard to achieve.

The most recent advice on aviation from the Climate Change Committee is that there should be [no net airport expansion at this point in time](#).

The CCC's recommendation on airports confirms the validity of the decision which North Somerset Council took in Feb 2020.

This planning inquiry is bound by the National Planning Policy Framework which states: "The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate... and ... should help to shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions."

We do not believe that overturning the decision taken by North Somerset Council and allowing Bristol Airport to expand would be "shaping places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions."

Please respect the decision taken by North Somerset Council on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

North Somerset councillors:

Councillor Don Davies, Pill - Leader of North Somerset Council

Councillor Bridget Petty, Backwell - Executive Member for Climate Emergency

Councillor Steve Bridger, Yatton - Executive Member for Capital Delivery and Assets

Councillor James Tonkin, Nailsea West End - Chair, Planning & Regulatory Committee.

Councillor Steve Hogg, Wrington Ward - Vice Chair, Children and Young People's Services

Councillor John Cato, Portishead West - Chair, Audit Committee

Councillor Karin Haverson, Banwell & Winscombe

Councillor Nicola Holland, Portishead West - Assistant Executive Member for Post-Covid Education and Skills Recovery

Councillor Stuart McQuillan, Long Ashton

Councillor Mike Bird, Nailsea

Bristol City councillors:

Councillor Carla Denyer, Clifton Down

Councillor Tom Hathway, Clifton Down

Councillor Jenny Bartle, Easton

Councillor Barry Parsons, Easton

Councillor Lisa Stone, Windmill Hill

Councillor Ed Plowden, Windmill Hill

Councillor David Wilcox, Lockleaze

Councillor Heather Mack, Lockleaze

Councillor Martin Fodor, Redland

Councillor Fi Hance, Redland

Councillor Tessa Fitzjohn, Bedminster

Councillor Tim Wye, Ashley

Councillor Jude English, Ashley

Councillor Lorraine Francis, Eastville

Councillor Ani Stafford-Townsend, Central

Councillor Katy Grant, Clifton

Councillor Paula O'Rourke, Clifton

Councillor Guy Poultney, Cotham

Councillor Mohamed Makawi, Cotham

Councillor Lily Fitzgibbon, Bishopston & Ashley Down

Councillor Emma Edwards, Bishopston & Ashley Down

Councillor Yassin Mohamud, Lawrence Hill

Councillor Tony Dyer, Southville

Councillor Christine Townsend, Southville

Bath & North East Somerset councillor: Councillor Joanna Wright, Lambridge