

Looking at growth

Why does the airport need to expand?

The number of passengers using Bristol International Airport has grown rapidly, from 2 million in 2000 when the Terminal Building opened to 6 million in 2008.

Demand for air travel to and from the South West is forecast to continue to grow and Government policy encourages the growth of regional airports, such as Bristol, to serve local and regional demand, subject to environmental constraints. The 2003 Future of Air Transport Government White Paper supported the development of

Bristol International Airport to around 12 million passengers per annum. We also need to enhance our facilities to make the Airport better for our passengers.

Bristol International Airport's growth in the past decade has been stimulated by the development of new routes by airlines such as Continental, Lufthansa, easyJet and Ryanair. Air travel is now within the reach of more people, providing opportunities that did not exist a generation ago. Air travel also plays a key role in the regional economy, underpinning the competitiveness of the South West by providing vital links to Europe and the rest of the world and through the provision of employment.

Regional airports such as Bristol deliver huge positives for both the economy and the quality of life for people living in the South West. Their development also reduces the need for passengers to make long distance journeys to airports such as Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.

But what does this growth mean for the airport?

- **In 2016 we forecast that 10 million passengers could be flying to and from the airport (in 2008 we catered for just over 6 million passengers).**
- **This would mean an additional five or six flights an hour during the main operating hours (6am – 11pm). These would be a mixture of arrivals and departures.**
- **Flights by commercial aircraft would increase from around 60,000 in 2008 to about 86,000 at 10 million passengers.**



How do we forecast growth?

The growth in passenger numbers at Bristol International Airport has been forecast by:

1. Taking data from the Civil Aviation Authority and Department of Transport on the long term growth in passenger demand in the United Kingdom as a whole. These growth forecasts take into account the effect of carbon pricing and other environmental issues.
2. Using this data to assess the passenger demand from Bristol's catchment area.
3. Estimating the proportion of passengers from Bristol's catchment area who will be using the airport taking into consideration factors such as airport expansion elsewhere in the UK and the impacts of airline fleet and aircraft developments.

The catchment area for passengers travelling to and from Bristol Airport is expected to remain broadly the same as today i.e. the South West, parts of Wales and the Midlands.

Other regional airports, such as Exeter, will also see growth, but Bristol International Airport is expected to remain the largest airport in the South West region. As services and destinations improve, it is predicted that less people will travel to London airports to fly. Freight is expected to remain a small part of the airport's business and the Royal Mail flights will continue to operate as now.

Although passenger numbers have dipped over the winter of 2008/09 we need to plan for long term growth. We are in no doubt that demand for air travel will continue to grow as the UK economy comes out of recession.

The proposals for expansion have included a number of consultation stages

