



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New South West climate change strategy must include aviation say campaigners

The Stop Bristol Airport Expansion campaign (SBAE) is calling for the South West Regional Assembly (SWRA) to include emissions from aviation in its new targets if it is to become the leading region to fight climate change. The call follows Friday's signing of the Nottingham Declaration by the SWRA, a move strongly welcomed by SBAE.

The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change is a voluntary pledge to address the issues of climate change. It was originally designed for individual Local Authorities but has been amended for the South West region.

SBAE spokesperson Hilary Burn said: "SBAE particularly welcomes the SWRA's determination to make the South West's commitments even stronger than those laid out in the original Nottingham Declaration

"However, although we look forward to seeing a really strong policy in place next year, the South West's ambition to be the leading region in combating climate change can only be realised if major cuts in emissions from aviation are included. We want to see the SWRA to follow the South East Regional Assembly's (SERA) in challenging the Government to review its policy of airport expansion to help tackle climate change."

At SERA's meeting last week, more than two to one voted that airport expansion plans contradict the Government's aim for sustainable development and reduction of carbon emissions. SERA also stated that making better use of the region's existing airport capacity would allow the economy to grow without the need for more runways.

Hilary Burn said: "There is no such thing as a carbon neutral airport. In the South West, the emissions from aviation will largely cancel out efforts from all industries and individuals to cut emissions. The Government's encouragement of airport expansion completely contradict its own aims for sustainable development and reduction of carbon emissions.

"Until we get a greater commitment from Government to reduce CO2 emissions, it is up to the regions to act on their own initiative – and this is what we want to see in the South West. This problem can't be put off and dealt with another day."

ENDS

For media enquiries contact Susan Pearson on: Tel 07891 460942 or 0117 966 6591 or email susan@wordways.co.uk

For further information on the Stop Bristol Airport Expansion campaign, visit:

www.stopbia.com

Notes

The Nottingham Declaration represents a high-level, broad statement of commitment that any council can make to its own community. It was originally launched in October 2000 at a conference in Nottingham with 200 leaders, chief executives and senior managers of UK local government and commits participating Local Authorities to make 60% cuts in CO2 emissions by 2050.