



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **What Is the Airport Planning?**

Bristol International Airport has announced that it will not be putting forward a planning application to develop the airport until 2008. Chief Executive Paul Kehoe told the Airport Consultative Committee meeting (17<sup>th</sup> October) that the application was likely to be submitted to North Somerset Council in the first six months of next year.

But passenger numbers are expected to carry on growing at the airport, with seven million passengers expected next year. The Master Plan published in November 2006, a year ago, said passenger numbers were likely to reach approximately 6.7million a year by 2010 (p31, table 5).

Stop Bristol Airport Expansion spokeswoman Hilary Burn said:

“This rapid increase in passenger numbers is deeply worrying – especially given the impacts it will have on local traffic and noise. The Masterplan gave the clear impression that we would see less rapid growth than this, but the public have been given the wrong impression.”

More than 5000 objections to the airport’s expansion plans were received by North Somerset Council from members of the public, alongside objections from local parishes. Many raised concerns about climate change, increased noise, more traffic on local roads, air and light pollution, loss of tranquillity and an economic argument that does not stack up.

BIA admitted at the meeting that new flights announced to Bergerac, Beziers and Pau were for second home owners and would not be bringing in-bound tourists to Bristol.

SBAE said that this meant the tourism deficit from Bristol would grow bigger as cheap flights increased.

BIA also told the meeting that the new flights recently announced would not bring 1,000 new jobs, as suggested by Michael O’Leary, but around 500 new jobs were likely. SBAE said this was only a predicted figure and current trends suggested fewer jobs were likely.

Hilary Burn continued:

“It seems very unclear as to what the airport is planning on doing. Will it make a planning application next year or will it delay again while just continuing to expand without any restriction on passenger numbers and flight movements.”

She urged people who were concerned about the expansion plans to join the campaign and register at [www.stopbia.com](http://www.stopbia.com)

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