



Advance: Monday 24 May

## **SBAE URGES COUNCILLORS TO REJECT AIRPORT EXPANSION PLANS**

Stop Bristol Airport Expansion (SBAE) is urging North Somerset Councillors to refuse planning permission to Bristol Airport when they meet on Monday 24 May to determine the airport's expansion plans [1].

Bristol Airport wants to expand its capacity to 10 million passengers a year - an increase of 60 per cent on passenger numbers in 2008.

SBAE says the Council must refuse the application because of the impacts on local residents, local roads and the wider environment, particularly in the light of new government policy on airports and climate change.

The Council has received more than 5,000 objections to the airport's expansion plans, including objections from neighbouring local authorities in Bristol and Bath & North East Somerset. Just 300 letters were received in support.

If given the go-ahead, the expansion will mean:

- Increased traffic levels on local roads (with more than 90 % of passengers travelling to the airport by car),
- Increased carbon emissions, which will contribute to climate change
- Increased noise for local residents

SBAE spokesperson Hilary Burn said:

"Councillors have a duty to refuse this application. Not only will it damage the local environment and well-being of local residents, it will also take money out of the local economy.

"Key issues around traffic levels, particularly around the village of Barrow Gurney, have not been resolved. And more flights, and passenger journeys to the airport, will mean an increase in climate changing greenhouse gas emissions – at a time when the UK Government has committed to cut emissions by 80%."

Mrs Burn added that the new government had already indicated that tackling climate change would be a key aim of transport policy – and that plans to build a new runway at Heathrow had been cancelled.

"The Council has a duty to current and future residents to build a more sustainable, low carbon economy. Increased air travel has no part to play in this."

She said that the Council should not grant permission simply because it was concerned by the costs of an appeal.

ENDS

Contact: Helen Burley 07703 731923

Notes:

[1] The application will go before the Planning and Regulatory Committee at 2pm on Monday 24 May at Weston Town Hall. This follows a referral from the South Area committee at a meeting in March.