

West of England



Aviation Policy Framework
Department for Transport
Great Minster House (1/24)
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Your Ref: WoE aviation framework response 311012
Tel: 0117 9224924
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Date: 31 October 2012

Dear Sir

Draft Aviation Policy Framework Consultation

We write in response to the above consultation document. The West of England recognises the major contribution the aviation sector makes to the economy and the approach set out to support its growth within a framework which maintains a balance between the benefits of aviation and its costs, particularly climate change and noise, is welcomed.

The West of England is a key economic centre accounting for 26% of the South West's economy, much of this focussed within innovative and creative sectors. It is an important strategic location serving as a transport gateway to the South West, with key hubs around mainline stations, Bristol Airport and Bristol Port. With over a million people and half a million jobs the West of England has the highest Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita of any major city in England outside of London.

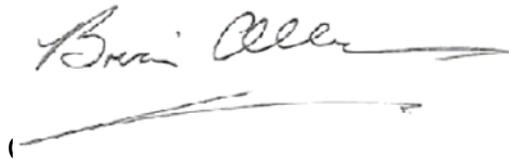
The West of England will continue to grow and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) ambition is to deliver 95,000 new jobs by 2030. Key to this will be the realisation of the challenge of delivering 72,000 new homes and 74,000 new jobs by 2026, as set out in the authorities' Core Strategies. This growth will increase pressure on a transport system that already suffers from chronic congestion because the development of transport infrastructure and services has not kept pace with economic development and expansion.

The draft Aviation Policy Framework seeks to strengthen the arrangements for involving communities near airports in decisions which affect them. It is equally important that the aviation industry has confidence that the framework is sufficiently stable to underpin long-term planning and investment in infrastructure and major operational assets.

We believe there is a strong case for making better use of regional airports. While there is a need to take account of localised environmental impacts and maintain protection, we are

also concerned about the amount of unnecessary surface travel between the South West region and major South East airports, i.e. surface travel leakage. In essence we believe there is a need to maximise / incentivise regional airport capacity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Allen", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Chair of the Joint Transport Executive Committee
Chair of the Planning, Transportation and Strategic Environment Committee, South
Gloucestershire Council

And on behalf of the Executive Members for Transport:

Roger Symonds
Bath and North East Somerset Council

Tim Kent
Bristol City Council

Elfan ap Rees
North Somerset Council