Foreword

By Jamie Christon



I am delighted to be able to publish our Master Plan which sets out our vision for the future development of Exeter International Airport.

Wide Ranging Consultation

This Master Plan is published after a wide ranging consultation process. The draft Master Plan was published in July 2008 and set out our ideas and aspirations for the future with a view to stimulating debate and generating ideas. The consultation process involved a wide distribution of the Plan, public displays and many meetings and discussions with a wide range of stakeholders. We invited responses from stakeholders and members of the public by letter, a questionnaire and through our website. Overall 166 people responded in over 400 subject areas. There was overwhelming support for our vision for the airport and a summary of responses will provided in a separate publication.

However, we are very conscious that a number of responses questioned some elements of the proposed Airport expansion and expressed, in some cases, alternative views. We have taken note of these opinions in this Plan which now becomes our firm statement of intent.

We want to grow and develop an airport to meet local demand that reflects the unique character of the region it serves. Therefore, in keeping with our commitment made when the draft Plan was published, the Airport will seek further contributions and suggestions about how it can develop a passenger terminal and other facilities which capture the culture, heritage and nature of the region.

Economic Conditions

Since the publication of our draft Master Plan we have experienced severe economic conditions that have resulted in one of the most significant downturns in aviation activity. IATA, the International Air Transport Association is forecasting that the impact of the recession during the 12 months from September 2008 will be more severe than that experienced after 9/11. We have seen a reduction in passenger numbers as people change their travel habits and airlines reduce capacity. UK Regional Airports reported a 15-20% reduction in passenger numbers during the year to September 2009 and Exeter

has experienced a reduction of 18%. History has shown that aviation recovers from "shocks" and downturns and therefore we are still predicting that the Airport will grow and that the Region will create the demand for air journeys predicted in the draft Master Plan. However, passenger numbers will be lower during the next few years than predicted in the Draft and this will probably result in delay rescheduling a number of expansion projects.

Increased Employment

In 2007 the Airport was estimated to support nearly 1,400 direct full time equivalent workers who in turn supported a further 750 jobs in the region. This level of employment annually contributes approximately £105 million to the local economy. The number of full time equivalent workers directly employed at the Airport is forecast to rise to 3,500 by 2030, which in turn supports a further 1,900 jobs in the region. The Regional Spatial Strategy and independent forecasts assess that by 2030 Exeter International Airport will play an increasingly important role in the social and economic fortunes of the region – providing, supporting and safeguarding jobs (many requiring high quality skills) and adding more than £264 million to the local economy.

Technology and Engineering

Equally important is the Airport's need to provide continuing support to its home-based carrier, one of Europe's largest and most environmentally sensitive regional airlines; Flybe. The plan, therefore, makes specific provision for the development of new and expanded high-tech aviation engineering and maintenance facilities.

Academy of Educational Excellence

I am particularly pleased that Flybe will locate their Training Academy at the Airport. This will be a centre of excellence providing training solutions for the needs of Flybe, Exeter International Airport and other companies in partnership with the Regional Development Agency and the Learning & Skills Council. This Academy will be of regional importance, directly harnessing the potential of a thriving regional airport and the long term employment benefit of the region, benefiting local people, employing local people and developing local people.

New Destinations

In the five years to 2008, the Airport was one of the fastest growing in the UK and has become an important gateway and a key asset for the South West. In 2007 and 2008 the Airport handled around 1 million passengers per annum and we are





determined to develop Exeter as the 'Airport of Choice' in the South West - helping local people, businesses and visitors avoid the long and unreliable surface journeys to airports elsewhere. To achieve this requires the Airport to grow its portfolio of routes, which currently stands at more than fifty destinations, to other parts of the UK, Europe, North America and Canada and we anticipate this choice will grow to include a more extensive European network and longer haul destinations. We will also look to increase inbound tourism to the region to benefit the local economy and grow visitor numbers to the South West.

In addition to providing for growing demand for air transport, the Plan safeguards the interests of private and corporate aviation as well as ensuring the continued operation of the Royal Mail hub for the South West.

No New Runway

Despite the forecast growth in aircraft movements, the Plan identifies no need to build new runways or to significantly extend the existing one.

More Passenger Journeys

We believe that by 2030 approximately 3.4 million passenger journeys will start or finish at Exeter International Airport. Accommodating this level of demand with facilities that reflect the qualities and standards of service sought by the region will require significant capital investment.

Planning

A detailed planning study concluded that because of environmental, surface access and other factors; future development, including the engineering facilities and the training academy should focus on the south side of the Airport. However, the ability to support new investment in airport related facilities to the north of the runway will be safeguarded with a review to be carried out by 2015.

Local Emphasis

Exeter International Airport is determined to develop for the benefit of the people it serves. We will continuously engage with stakeholders across the region to help ensure that we grow in a sustainable way, reflecting the green ambitions of the region whilst still delivering long term economic benefits. In particular we support the East of Exeter Developments and look forward to integrating the airport with Skypark, Cranbrook and the Science Park ensuring that we provide the best possible route network to support the economic development of these projects and communities.

Noise

The majority of responses to the draft Master Plan concerned noise, night flights and flight paths. We appreciate that airports have to do as much as possible to reduce the disturbance caused by aircraft and we are committed to doing all that we can to mitigate the effects of noise. I am pleased to announce that Exeter International Airport will introduce a binding Night Noise Quota system to limit the disturbance caused to the community, a quota level that will be regularly reviewed and commit to develop and introduce a Quiet Operations Policy to promote a noise reduction plan that will mitigate noise generation and annoyance caused to our neighbours.

The Way Forward

This Master Plan confirms our intent and whilst in does not infer planning permissions it will be used as the guide for future applications to East Devon District Council.

By their nature, airports are dynamic and changing businesses and we will review this Master Plan in approximately five years time taking account of demand, future forecast growth and macro influences to ensure that we can always present an up to date intent of our Development to the Region.

Summary

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who took the time and trouble to comment on our draft Master Plan. We look forward to developing the Airport to support the social and economic fortunes of the Region, and developing our facilities so that all in the Region can be proud of their Airport.



Jamie Christon Managing Director Exeter International Airport