

“Our masterplan was drawn up under the Labour government, which was keen to see possible new runways at Stansted, Gatwick and Heathrow,” he says. “But that is not on the political agenda now. Consequently, our position has strengthened and there will have to be displacement from the major airports.”

London Southend: Easy win

Stobart Group’s £21m purchase in 2009 of London Southend airport has been vindicated by budget airline EasyJet’s decision to transfer flights it operates from Stansted to 10 destinations – among them Barcelona, Malaga and Amsterdam – to Southend from April 2012.

Last week the £16m Southend Airport Station opened. It links directly to Stratford and London’s Liverpool Street and was funded by Stobart. A 32,000 sq ft terminal building will open early next year in advance of EasyJet transferring its flights.

The airport aims to differentiate itself from London’s big three airports through more efficient airport security and better customer service.

London Luton: Rooms for improvement

Although London Luton airport has no plans to expand its throughput, it has brought a 2.2 acre site to the market through a leasehold agreement that has planning consent for a five-storey, 171-room hotel with the airport’s manager, London Luton Airports Operations. Matthews & Goodman is marketing the hotel site.

Bournemouth: In business

MAG Developments – the property and development arm of Manchester Airports Group – has this week submitted a planning application for a 452,000 sq ft extension of its Aviation Business Park at Bournemouth airport.

The 35 acre site is split up into five separate plots on the park’s western perimeter that will be developed over a 10-year period for office and industrial use.

The park already has 1.2m sq ft of space and will complete a further 36,000 sq ft facility that it has prelet to City Link, which is part of Rentokil, in November.

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