

Neil Underhay
North Somerset Council
Town Hall
Walliscote Grove Road
Weston-super-Mare
BS23 1UJ

17 December 2019

Dear Mr Underhay,

Development of Bristol Airport to Accommodate 12 Million Passengers Per Annum (ref 18/P/5118/OUT): Response to North Somerset Council Highways and Transport Comments

I am writing in response to the comments from the North Somerset Council (NSC) Highways and Transport service, dated 12 November 2019 in respect of Bristol Airport Limited's (BAL's) planning application for the development of Bristol Airport to accommodate 12 million passengers per annum (mppa).

Towards a 10mppa capacity airport: our track record on surface access improvements

Through our existing Airport Surface Access Strategy (ASAS) we have invested significantly to improve public transport access to Bristol Airport. This has included key sustainable transport measures delivered as part of the current Section 106 Agreement developed to mitigate the impacts of airport growth up to 10mppa, such as our investments in support of the Ashton Vale to Temple Meads Metrobus Project and the South Bristol Link, alongside the launch of the Weston Flyer service and other key public transport routes. Beyond the Section 106 Agreement, we have also demonstrated our commitment to sustainable transport; recent examples of this include our investment in a brand new fleet for the A1 Bristol Flyer service (upgrading to new high-quality Euro VI double deckers), the installation of 15 new electric vehicle charging points in 2019 and establishment of our car share scheme for staff.

Over the last decade we have invested well over £10 million in sustainable transport improvements (inclusive of ongoing operational costs). This significant investment has seen public transport mode share increase from 9.3% in 2011 up to 12.5% in 2018, underlining the importance of our ASAS policies and our ongoing commitment to sustainable travel.

Beyond 10mppa: a more ambitious target for public transport mode share

Our planning application for a 12mppa capacity airport and the accompanying proposed Section 106 Heads of Terms was based on a commitment to maintain a public transport mode share target of 15% for passengers, with at least 25% of airport employees using sustainable means of travel. The Transport Assessment that supported the planning application assessed the traffic impact of our proposals in this context and concluded that the highway impact of the development, taking into account the mitigation measures proposed at that time, was acceptable in planning terms.

Notwithstanding the conclusions of the Transport Assessment, following engagement with NSC officers and taking into account the Highways and Transport service comments, BAL agrees to adopt revised ambitious, stretching targets of 17.5% for passengers and 30% for employees supported by additional, significant investment in public transport. Importantly, the new stretch public transport modal share target of 17.5% would be benchmarked using the new CAA survey data. This will demonstrate that on a like-for-like comparison basis, our targets for public transport mode share will be ambitious.

Enhanced surface access proposals

To deliver the stretch target of 17.5% public transport mode share and ensure that the impacts of Bristol Airport's growth between 10mppa and 12mppa are fully mitigated, we have developed the enclosed ambitious surface access package that includes early delivery of public transport investment. This package seeks to reflect all of the comments and proposals presented by officers at NSC and comprises:

- A new ambitious Airport Surface Access Strategy to achieve a stretching 17.5% public transport mode share target at 12mppa;
- A new ambitious airport-wide Employee Travel Plan to deliver a stretching 30% sustainable transport mode share target at 12mppa;
- Delivery of a new high-quality Public Transport Interchange facility;
Continuation of the strategic public transport services delivered under our extant consent for the growth of Bristol Airport to 10mppa;
- A new Public Transport Improvement Fund to support sustainable transport improvements;
- Further development of the Metrobus Network and integration with the Bristol Flyer;
- Enhancements to the Weston Flyer, including 24/7 timetable and new infrastructure;
- A new demand-responsive service to Nailsea, calling at Nailsea and Backwell station;
- A new demand-responsive service to Clevedon, via Yatton, calling at Yatton station;
- Improvements to the strategic coach services, including infrastructure enhancements;

- A multi-modal review of our charges for different modes of transport;
- A new Employee Travelcard Scheme to incentivise and encourage sustainable travel;
- Support to the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Future Mobility Zone project;
- Development of an Ultra-Low Emission Strategy with ambitious targets for low carbon transport;
- A phased approach to new car parking facilities linked to investment in public transport;
- A commitment to deliver our local parking control measures to reduce the impacts of offsite parking and waiting locally; and
- A comprehensive traffic monitoring plan to manage future impacts on local highways.

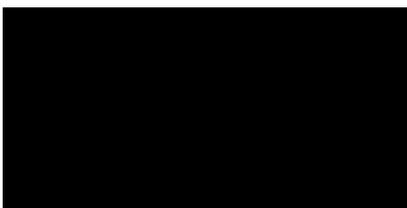
With a financial value in excess of £10 million, our proposals would see Bristol Airport continuing its track record of significant investment in sustainable transport measures.

Our detailed response to Highways and Transport comments

We have reviewed the Highways and Transport comments in detail, including the summary document and the four appendices and I also enclose a detailed response. Inevitably there are a few areas within the comments where we have not yet reached agreement with officers. However, we are confident that these issues can be resolved in the coming weeks and would not prevent us from securing the package of surface access measures outlined above as part of any planning consent.

I trust that the above is clear but please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss in more detail.

Yours sincerely,



PAUL BAKER

Surface Access Strategy Manager