



# Leading experts discuss airport connectivity, new airport infrastructure and sustainable surface access

Ahead of the [UK Airport Infrastructure Development Forum](#) on 2nd July in London, four industry experts share their thoughts on airport connectivity, the challenges facing airport infrastructure delivery and sustainable surface access.

## Simon Earles

*Planning and Sustainability Director*

## Bristol Airport

### What can we do now to plan for improved airport connectivity across the UK?

The new Aviation Strategy is designed to provide a policy framework to facilitate this but it needs to be more ambitious. Airspace change is critical to enable the industry to continue to grow, so government and those agencies involved need to keep up the pace on this. Government has recognised its role in supporting improved surface access to airports but this needs to be backed up with real funding.

### What are the biggest challenges in the delivery of new airport infrastructure?

The majority of UK airports are privately owned, so generally investment isn't the main issue. Supportive policy (national, regional, local) and securing planning without unworkable conditions are the biggest challenges, especially as customer needs and technological changes mean that development plans sometimes need to change.

### How can we encourage people to use more sustainable methods of transportation?

For passengers, it is about providing a realistic choice. At Bristol Airport we have invested heavily in the Airport Flyer service between the airport and Bristol city centre – over 10% of our passengers now use the service. The absolute key is that more sustainable modes are reliable – if that can be demonstrated then customers will use the alternative option.

**Continued overleaf.**



*“Supportive policy and securing planning without unworkable conditions are the biggest challenges, especially as customer needs and technological changes mean that development plans sometimes need to change.”*

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## Andy Saunders

Surface Access Strategy Manager

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#### What can we do now to plan for improved airport connectivity across the UK?

Plan & implement road priority schemes for buses / coaches and work with all partners in the rail industry to secure critical paths to serve the first wave of flights. Also work with airlines & tour operators to develop combined ticketing for airport access and flights

#### What are the biggest challenges in the delivery of new airport infrastructure?

Road congestion – the industry needs to find better and more sustainable ways of moving staff and passengers to and from airports. Both groups need reliability in their journeys without excessive increase in cost.

#### How can we encourage people to use more sustainable methods of transportation?

This has to be a mixture of “carrot & stick”. For staff it is about reliable transport options at the right time for them. For passengers, in addition to reliability, comfort & convenience are close to cost when assessing options. Many look at using the car as the cheap option – there needs to be an easy to use guide to explain the true costs of driving.

## Matthew Butters

Director; Board Member & Airport Consultant Group Chair

Pascall+Watson; British Aviation Group

#### What can we do now to plan for improved airport connectivity across the UK?

Managed expansion at all of the UK’s major airports to meet capacity demand. More capacity at all levels: hub, point to point, regional, is the key to building more aviation connections to support the UK’s global ambitions. But this expansion needs to be environmentally sensitive and do more than just counter balance the inevitable carbon footprint of air travel. What can airports do to positively develop the environment and enhance their immediate surroundings?

#### What are the biggest challenges in the delivery of new airport infrastructure?

Aside from the issue of runway capacity and size of the airfield, airports are having to deal with significant access constraints and barriers to new terminal

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*“The industry needs to find better and more sustainable ways of moving staff and passengers to and from airports.”*



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and passenger infrastructure. Over the last few decades, airports have successfully accommodated growth within a limited footprint through innovation, flexibility and the use of technology. But on the ground space is finite and in order to continue growing, airports and their surrounding communities need to find new ways to live together in a positive and mutually beneficial way.

### **How can we encourage people to use more sustainable methods of transportation?**

Accessibility, ease use and predictability are the key criteria for most people's transport mode selection, particularly when planning a route to the airport. Central network planning for public transport certainly has a key role in promoting more sustainable methods of transport but this must also embrace the diversity of modes that is likely to come through new technology in the next few years particularly when it comes to ensuring access for as many members of the population as possible.

#### **Graham Cross**

*Chief Executive*

#### **Heathrow Southern Railway**

### **What can we do now to plan for improved airport connectivity across the UK?**

Take action now to plan the rail links which need to be in place for when Heathrow expands.

### **What are the biggest challenges in the delivery of new airport infrastructure?**

Getting airports and government to agree what their respective roles are in promotion and financing of rail links.

### **How can we encourage people to use more sustainable methods of transportation?**

Build rail links to places people want to go; when that is done, levy charges on arriving road vehicles.

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*“Airports and their surrounding communities need to find new ways to live together in a positive and mutually beneficial way.”*

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*“Take action now to plan the rail links which need to be in place for when Heathrow expands.”*

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## **Hear from these experts and many more...**

...including Heathrow Airport, Gatwick Airport, Transport for London, Department for Transport, Pinsent Masons and more at the [UK Airport Infrastructure Development Forum](#), taking place in London at Pinsent Masons on Tuesday 2nd July.

Tickets start from just £299 + VAT, (group booking discounts available) for full details of the programme and how to secure your place visit <http://bit.ly/2U555w5>.

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