

Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 – Panel Hearings

Flybe – Martin Saxton - Director of Commercial Planning

Issues / Concerns

- “For too long the people of the southwest have had no air bridge to the world”.
- Have an engineering apprenticeship scheme – At least 40 are on the scheme at any one time.
- Flybe work closely with the community – sponsorship of Birmingham and Exeter City Football Clubs. Development clubs for juniors.
- Company is growing at a sustainable and realistic rate. 35% passenger growth last year. Seeking 15-20% growth a year.
- Exeter to Paris will be operational by March 2005 allowing links with the rest of the world.
- Low cost aviation is good for business in the South West and for inbound tourism.
- Good for quality of life. Will attract quality staff allowing further inward investment.
- “Flybe is committed to flying the most environmentally friendly airlines” - An issue that will continue to grow.
- Regionally expanding Exeter Airport will take traffic off the road as people will not be travelling to regional airports further afield.
- Helping pioneer an eco-labelling project for air line companies. – The Flybe fleet have the smallest noise footprint of almost any aircraft.
- Also bringing down the fuel burden of air travel – so a comparatively environmentally friendly option.
- Over a 12 month period they saved around 17 million miles through Southampton airports growth. People would have previously travelled to Gatwick or Heathrow.

Recommendations

- How to get to airport? – The Bus services are not as useable as they could be;
 - Timings of operation limit penetration and therefore market demand.
 - No train services currently
 - Currently not an integrated inter-modal hub. That is what we would like to do.
- The Local Transport Plan 2001-2006 had an airport access strategy in it. Not a lot seems to have come of it and it needs reinvigorating.
- Current road position and terminal position aren't ideal. Work needs to be carried out to establish potential improvements. What are the horizons ahead for the next five years in terms of new terminal position? It could prove costly!
- What are travel examples of good travel practice at other regional airports?
 - A lot already far larger and more established than Exeter so have existing bus structure. Learn best practice in terms of taxis & car hire.
 - Need to undertake a trip origin study, too the airport. Feasibility study.