

SEEC/SESL Meeting 20 June 2013

Future of UK Airport Capacity

Neil Gibson

SEDEPT

Strategic Director, Buckinghamshire County
Council



Importance


- Airports essential to any global economic power
 - Air travel forecast to increase
 - Correlation between seats on flights and value of exports
 - Airports critical to SE Economy
 - Heathrow responsible for:
 - 9.4% direct employment in Hillingdon
 - 7.2% in Hounslow
 - 6.8% in Slough
 - SE Economy is important to UK Economy
 - £6.3bn pa net contribution to the Economy
 - Strategic impact on other planning/investment
 - Transport infrastructure
 - Land use
 - Economic business growth
- 

South East Picture

- 'Greater' SE / London Airports (>0.5m passengers pa)

Heathrow (Hub)	70m
Gatwick	34m
Stanstead	18m
Luton	10m
London City	3m
Southampton	1.7m
Southend	0.6m
- Heathrow
 - At 99.2% capacity
 - Now serves 6 UK Regional Airports (1990 = 18)
 - Only 2 runways
 - EU Hub competitors
 - Madrid (4)
 - Paris Charles de Gaulles (6)
 - Frankfurt (4)
 - Amsterdam (6)
- Massive expansion in BRIC countries

SE Options/Single Hub?

- Lots of speculation
 - Min of 4 runways
 - Outside SE unlikely to meet UK need/international demands
 - Options
 - Expand Heathrow
 - Expand either Gatwick or Stanstead
 - Build new Hub “Boris Island”
 - Speculation that if not Heathrow it will close
- 

SE Options/Dispersed Hub?

- Spread Hub role nationally
- Expand some SE Regional Airports
- Not what EU/Global Competitors are doing

SE Options/Joint Hub?

- Heathrow and Manchester HS2 linked
 - Heathrow and Gatwick via HS link
 - Not what EU/Global Competitors doing
- 

Discussion Points

- Through what lens will SEEC/SECL engage in this debate?
 - Repositioning the UK/SE Economy as a whole?
 - Meeting the demands of UK/SE business and tourism?
 - Environmental considerations being more/less important than future Economic prosperity?
 - Sovereignty of 'local' impacts/opportunities versus the collective whole?
 - The final choice would shift the dynamics in the SE and how do we plan for this?
 - Strategic infrastructure investment needed
 - Specific environmental mitigation
 - Business growth potential
 - Land use/regeneration implications
 - Does the SE want to present an agreed way forward to Government or to allow Government to make our decision for us?
 - What role the SE LEPS/Business in this debate?
- 