



PRESS RELEASE – 16th January 2009

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTS AIRPORT RUNWAY SAFETY PROJECT

Gloucester City Council last night voted to support the Airport's Runway Safety Project.

The meeting was temporarily suspended and all members of the public were ejected from the chamber after jeering anti-airport campaigners interrupted the debate. Voting continued behind closed doors, with all but one Councillor voting in favour of the project.

Airport Director, Mark Ryan said: "We welcome this decision. This project is essential to the future of the Airport in terms of safety, our ability to deliver increased profitability to the shareholders and the economic prosperity of the region as a whole.

With fellow shareholders, Cheltenham Borough Council already having supported our business case last year, we are poised to move the project onto the next stage. We still have more work to do, but this is a major milestone."

The plans were approved, subject to the ratification of a Green Policy, to limit the environmental impacts of the project.

Head of Operations, Darren Lewington said: "We're working closely with officers from both Councils. We've devised a groundbreaking methodology to calculate CO₂ emissions from aircraft and set targets to reduce our ground-based emissions, year on year.

We'll be applying a ceiling to the annual total of flights and current opening hours will not be extended, to ensure that noise nuisance is minimised. Gloucestershire Airport is one of the UK's busiest airports, but by accepting limits on our operations, we're demonstrating our commitment to fighting climate change.

We're confident that we strike a balance between the needs of our customers and those of the local communities nearby."

The next stage of the project will be the determination of four Planning Applications required to complete the project, which were lodged with Tewkesbury Borough Council in 2006. It is expected that these will be considered in the next few months.