

LONDON STANSTED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2025

Growing our airport over the next 20 years

Our Sustainable Development Plan sets out the context and our approach to operate and grow the airport over the next 20 years.

This includes our assessment of:

- How passenger travel to and from the airport will evolve in the years ahead and how the airport will mitigate any impact of this, ensuring half of all journeys are by public transport
- The extent of the airport's economic contribution and how this will grow as Stansted's number of passengers and destinations grows, involving 16,300 good quality jobs for local people
- Surface access infrastructure improvements, including further work to M11 Junction 8 and funds for local bus services, local roads and sustainable transport developments
- Increased support for the Stansted Airport College offering more places to students to grow their careers in aviation, helping to meet industry skills shortages in engineering and hospitality

Critical to our plans is making the best use of the capability and capacity of the existing runway and airfield infrastructure, airport facilities and land uses within the existing airport boundary.

The current planning permission for the airport's growth up to 43mppa is based on air traffic forecasts that were made in 2018. Since then, there have been important developments in how airlines are investing in new aircraft.

Notably, there's been an increase in the size of the planes that airlines are now purchasing as they renew their fleets.

As we consider the long-term sustainable development of the airport, we need to update our air traffic forecasts to reflect this evolving fleet composition. We still expect the same growth trajectory in aircraft movements, increasing over time up to the present agreed limit of 274,000 aircraft movements, however, larger aircraft will carry more passengers in the same number of movements.

It is appropriate that we review the potential for making best use of the runway within the existing movements cap, and that we plan for the next phase in the airport's development. Following more detailed analysis, we submitted a planning application in early 2025 seeking to increase the passenger cap to up to 51mppa.

The SDP describes our vision and ambitions for the future development of the airport as well as the opportunities and challenges that we face. It includes our surface access, environmental and community strategies as important individual components of a sustainable future for the airport and describes a clear context and direction for the airport's contribution to a stronger and growing regional economy.





Economy

“We will continue to play an important and proactive role working with our partners and suppliers to increase economic activity and productivity driving economic activity and employment for our local area. Through providing good quality jobs and opportunities to local businesses to work with us the communities that we serve will grow as the airport does.”

Principles

- Grow the number of jobs at the airport to 16,300 providing employment opportunities for people living in the areas that need them most, and ensuring we remain an equal, diverse, and inclusive workplace.
- Work with and develop our local supply chain to grow amount of trade we do with local suppliers and continue to support and grow businesses in the area around the airport.



Land Use

“To make best and most efficient use of the land and facilities at London Stansted Airport in a way that supports the airport’s growth and its future development. The airport’s growth will make the best use of our single runway, and of the airport’s land surrounding this.”

Principles

- Continue to develop the airport’s core infrastructure (including £1.1bn in the next five years) to support an airport operation with a maximum of 274,000 annual aircraft movements.
- Contain development within the airport’s existing land boundaries.



Surface Access

“We will ensure that at least 50% of journeys made by passengers are by public Transport. This will enable passengers to continue to travel to the airport using a choice of safe, fast, easy, reliable and sustainable transport options.”

Principles

- Help deliver good quality and reliable transport networks that serve the airport’s passengers and local communities, delivering connectivity to key locations across Essex and the wider catchment area.
- Reduce the number of single occupancy car journeys to London Stansted Airport, especially by airport workers, and seek to discourage air passengers from being picked up or dropped off by car.



Environment

“Minimise the wider environmental impacts associated with our operation, working with partners to ensure that the development of the airport protects the local environment while reducing the carbon emissions of our operational activities to net zero by 2038.”

Principles

- Grow our business in a carefully managed and sustainable way, ensuring development aligns with our commitment to minimise the environmental impacts associated with our operation.
- Maintain and enhance our environmental and energy management systems with regular independent audits to challenge our performance and ensure continual improvement.



Community

“We will grow the opportunities that the airport brings whilst recognising our impact on local communities. We will listen to the views of local people to understand what matters most to them, ensuring we continue to provide worthwhile employment and training opportunities for those who want to establish or grow their careers in aviation.”

Principles

- Continue to maximise the benefits the airport provides for young people locally, through growing the Stansted Airport College, and ensuring that those seeking work or community groups seeking support can do so through our skills and community outreach work.
- Maintain and grow the extent of our work engaging with our local community, identifying and resolving the negative impacts of the airport’s operation where we can.

Want to know more?

Visit our website stanstedairport.com/about-us/development-plan or email developmentplan@stanstedairport.com

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