



## INDEPENDENT TRANSPORT COMMISSION

*Britain's independent research charity for transport and land use policy*

[www.theitc.org.uk](http://www.theitc.org.uk)

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

***EMBARGOED UNTIL 01:00 BST, 3 July 2012***

#### ***ITC LAUNCHES CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON UK AVIATION STRATEGY***

In response to the Secretary of State for Transport's recent call for a proper investigation into the longer-term choices facing UK Aviation, the Independent Transport Commission (ITC) has launched a major research study that will identify the broad strategic options open to policy makers as well as the key issues they raise. The ITC study will consider all strategic options in its study.

As part of this research, the ITC is today launching a nationwide Call for Evidence on Britain's Aviation Strategy. The ITC invites submissions from businesses, airports, industry, local government, public interest groups and members of the public with an interest in the future of UK aviation. Written submissions are requested before the deadline of 30 September 2012. Following this deadline, a number of spoken evidence sessions will be held by the ITC in Autumn 2012.

The ITC Call for Evidence poses five key questions. First, is there a need for greater aviation capacity in the UK, and of what type? Second, over what timescale do we need to solve our aviation needs? Third, what are the risks of failing to provide additional capacity? Fourth, what are the key criteria for determining environmental acceptability of any development? And finally, if more capacity is needed, what are the main options to solve this and what are the issues they raise?

Dr Stephen Hickey, the Commissioner chairing the research study, explained: *"The future of aviation, especially in the south-east of England, is one of the most controversial but critical strategic challenges we face. The ITC is independent and non-partisan and its review will assess the key issues, the choices we face, and their implications. We welcome all those interested or concerned about these key issues to input evidence so that the review can be as authoritative and balanced as possible."*

It is expected that the ITC study will form an important contribution to developing a national aviation strategy on which the Government has promised further consultation later this summer. For full details of the ITC Call for Evidence please visit the ITC website at: [www.theitc.org.uk](http://www.theitc.org.uk).

- ENDS -

## Notes for Editors

For further information please contact the ITC Secretary Dr Matthew Niblett on mobile 078 1317 4582, email [matthew.niblett@keble.oxon.org](mailto:matthew.niblett@keble.oxon.org) .

1. The ITC Call for Evidence is available in electronic copy and will be posted on the Commission's website on 03 July 2012.
2. The deadline for written submissions is 30 September 2012. Oral evidence sessions will be held during October and November 2012.
3. The ITC Call for Evidence will feed into the Commission's Aviation Strategy research study which will report in 2013. The study, which is led by Commissioner Dr Stephen Hickey, will consider all options for solving the UK's Aviation needs.
4. The ITC, founded in 1999, is Britain's leading independent think tank investigating issues in transport, planning and land use. It is run by 14 voluntary Commissioners, a small Secretariat and has a base at Cowcross Street in central London. Simon Linnett, executive Vice-Chairman of Rothschild is the current ITC Chairman. The Commission's current core funders currently include: Go-Ahead Group, FirstGroup, Arriva, Network Rail, BAA, Transport for London, British Land, IAG, SNCF, Bircham Dyson Bell and Peter Brett Associates.

## Members of the ITC:

Alan Baxter CBE (Treasurer), Kristine Beuret OBE, Mary Bonar, John Dawson, Elizabeth Gilliard, Nicholas Finney OBE, Dr Stephen Hickey, Sarah Kendall, Professor Peter Jones, Simon Linnett (Chairman), Dr Gregory Marsden, Steven Norris, and Professor John Worthington.

**The Patrons of the ITC** include Lord Adonis, Lord Freeman, Sir Patrick Brown, Sir Terry Farrell and Professor Sir Peter Hall.

