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## Southend Airport to take up to 5.5m passengers in future, says Stobart Air boss

8:10am Wednesday 9th April 2014 in [News By David Trayner](#)



Stobart Air boss Andrew Tinkler, Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin, Rochford and Southend East MP James Duddridge and David Lister, the airport's operations director

SOUTHEND Airport could take more than five million passengers in just a few years.

The staggering figure was revealed as its £10million terminal extension was officially opened by Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin on Monday.

The airport is already preparing to hit the two-million passenger mark four years ahead of schedule. It will take 1.3million this year, rising to 2.5million in two to three years and 5.5million in future.

Originally, the terminal was estimated to handle two million by 2020.

Stobart Air chief executive Andrew Tinkler, whose firm has invested £120million in the airport since taking over in 2008, said: "Our target was to get two million passengers by 2020, but that has accelerated.

"In two to three years, we are looking to get two to 2.5million.

"After that, we will have to see, but the facility is there to handle 5.5million."

The extension has quadrupled the size of the departure lounge and trebled retail floor space, leading to new airlines moving in, including Flybe, which last week announced six new routes to northern Europe from Southend.

Mr Tinkler said: “It’s about having passengers and operators to fly to destinations that will drive that.”

The new flights are expected to carry 200,000 in the first year, rising to 700,000 within three years.

Mr McLoughlin said: “The extension is fantastic. It’s bright, light and roomy. They have designed it for five million passengers and there is plenty of room for expansion.”

Concerns have been raised about the impact on people living under the flight path of more than doubling passenger numbers, with more than 1,200 households already attempting to claim compensation for the alleged loss of property values.

But Southend Council has capped flights at 53,300 a year – about half the number using the airport in the Eighties.

The authority is seeking £44.25million of Government cash to ensure the [A127](#) can cope with increased demand, but also hopes more people will use the train.

[James Duddridge](#), ToryMP for [Rochford](#) and Southend East, praised the airport for creating 1,500 jobs and boosting the town’s profile. He said: “It has changed the way we think about ourselves and present ourselves.

“When I introduced myself when first elected, people would speak fondly of their time on the pier and eating Rossi ice cream.

“Now they mention visiting London [Southend Airport](#).”

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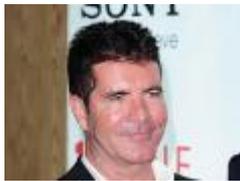
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8:38am Wed 9 Apr 14

**Nowthatsworthknowing** says...

Fantastic, these high numbers, reflect the popularity of this ever growing airport.

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9:49am Wed 9 Apr 14

**planespeaking** says...

Great for employment, great for the local economy, great for Southend!

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10:54am Wed 9 Apr 14

**pembury53** says...

**planespeaking** wrote:

Great for employment, great for the local economy, great for Southend!

Really ? what is at present an excellent airport, with some of the most efficient boarding times and general ease of use to be found anywhere in the country, will eventually end up like every other airport, lengthy queues, parking hell, congested local roads..... the writing was on the wall when easy jet bailed out from stansted....

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11:09am Wed 9 Apr 14

**planespeaking** says...

**pembury53** wrote:

**planespeaking** wrote:

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I think you will find that far from ' bailing out ' of Stansted easyJet have just entered into a major new long term contract with MAG, Stansted's new owners.

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12:08pm Wed 9 Apr 14

**pembury53** says...

**planespeaking** wrote:

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**planespeaking** wrote: Great for employment, great for the local economy, great for Southend!

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I think you will find that far from ' bailing out ' of Stansted easyJet have just entered into a major new long term contract with MAG, Stansted's new owners.

then i stand corrected.... i thought easyjet were pulling out from there, but appears not..... however, as regards expansion at southend, i stand by those comments, it wont all be good news...

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2:16pm Wed 9 Apr 14

**maxell** says...

I Start my inviting insults, from the all the people that take airport/echo reports at face value and never bother to research any thing.

This is all bull , the prime minister was originally coming to open the airport but once he found out that there are serious issues with the CAA and licesing he declined and a patsey came instaead , Mr Camaron wants the issue looked into and it could result in the licence for runway 06 being revoked, with the airport loosing an average £130,000 a day. (MY CALCs). Manston is closing due to loosing 10,000 a day this higher figure is not sustainable , with Easyjet looking to make base at luton, and taking over the larger runway quota at heathrow and southend still having a short and skinney runway along with 14 puntures into the ILS zone, when none are allowed begs the question of how this was ever licensed , this is what the prime minister has stated he wants looking into. According to cumbrian press it looks like airport are up in court for alledged fraud, purgery and all other kinds of chris hune driving issues. Last year the airport accounts show that for each and every passenger they lost about £5.00 you do the math 1000,000 pasengers at £5.00 per head = ??? Flying two 75 seaters that they own, under flybe livery with a franchise in tow wont give them much of a return. with comments like this from people involved with shares,

"Looks like trouble at mill at Southend Airport and gagging is being attempted of Stobart employees according to the whistle site. Dbay deal seems to have gone quiet - has it completed ?"

( what is not said is that the whistle site is run by a court reconised aviation expert with the highest accreditation in ILS systems) information from this site is reliable)

I cant beleive that anybody with any savy could beleive this 5 million tosh , just use the power of google the info is out there please dont be binkered, My opininion as always ... for once would it be nice if people were to understand what they are comenting about. The

airport simply wanted a figure head so they can say it must be ok as he/she would not have agreed to open the terminal.  
smoke and mirrors. Pembury 53 is correct, but it will never happen.