

Airport's expansion to 'ease flight shortages'

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THE rapid expansion of Southend Airport will help solve flight capacity shortages in the South East, its managing director claims.

Five new aircraft stands have opened up at the airport, as part of an ongoing £10million extension to the passenger terminal.

This follows a new arrivals area, which opened last week.

The extension, due to be completed by the end of this year, will encompass a bigger check-in area, a security search area and a much bigger departures lounge.

The airport's MD, [Alastair Welch](#), said: "With much debate about future airport capacity in the South East, our investment demonstrates the very significant capacity which now exists at London Southend. We are actively engaging with the Davies Commission to ensure the airport's potential is understood as part of the commission's deliberations.

"The five new stands we have opened this week form a small part of the capacity development under way at the airport."

A total of 721,661 passengers used London [Southend Airport](#) in the year to the end of February, which beats the previous record of 692,000 which was set back in 1967.

Flight operators easyJet, Thompson, and First Choice are also expanding their services at the airport. Just recently the airport has added Newquay, Edinburgh and Ibiza to the list of places it offers flights to.