

# Echo comment: Ooh la la, the Paris flights are just great



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SOUTHEND has much to offer residents and visitors, but the announcement of flights direct to Paris proves once again the airport is a vital to the borough's economic success.

The airport and its main operator easyJet have come a long way since the battle to extend the runway was won and flights to attractive destinations were made possible.

The airport has proved to be a huge boost for the economic health of the town, bringing jobs and tourism. The latest announcement of flights to the French capital brings the number of routes on offer to 17 and it is perhaps the most important so far – a real feather in the airport's cap.

Despite a fairly meteoric rise, the airport stumbled a little in terms of passenger numbers this year, but such a major route is likely to overcome that blip.

It could also prove a catalyst to prompting easyJet or other major budget airlines to add other major European cities to the [Southend Airport](#) destination list.

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Southend Council leader Ron Woodley is confident the town can get behind the airline to promote Southend as a real holiday destination choice, bringing passengers into the town as well as out.

With every new route, investment will follow, providing jobs and underpinning the growing numbers of businesses.



eurodoomed 2:25pm Tue 15 Sep 15

I think the airport is at a crossroads. Either, more airlines and routes, or a gradual withering on the vine. I hope the former, but fear the latter, as the airport is virtually totally dependent upon Easyjet, and the heavily subsidised Flybe.

Score: 2

maxell 3:42pm Tue 15 Sep 15

The ECHO a true captain staying with a sinking ship to the very end.