

Update Police and fire crews swarm Southend Airport

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THIS is the plane which had to make an emergency landing at [Southend Airport](#) after a suspected fire broke out on the aircraft.

Fire fighters and police swarmed Southend Airport as the plane made its dramatic descent while carrying 28 passengers and three crew.

The Blue Islands airliner was flying from Jersey to London City Airport but was diverted to Southend for an emergency landing.

Fire crews said the situation had the potential to be “extremely serious” but said automatic fire suppression systems on the plane extinguished the fire before it landed.

However a spokesperson from Blue Islands claim initial inspections don’t show evidence of a blaze.

The spokesperson said: “At approximately 08:28 local this morning, the Blue Islands flight SI712 Jersey to London City with 28 passengers and three crew on-board, experienced a safety warning.

“As a precautionary measure the engine was shut down, and this flight followed standard procedures and diverted to London Southend Airport. The aircraft landed safely at London Southend at 08:48.

“The aircraft is currently being inspected by engineers at Southend. Initial indications are that no fire took place and it appears to be a false alert.

“The passengers were then transported by road to London City Airport. Passenger, crew and aircraft safety is our number one priority at all times.”

Two fire crews from Southend, and one each from [Leigh](#), Hawkwell, [Rochford](#) and [Rayleigh](#), rushed to the airport at 8.30am to provide water for the airport’s own fire crews.

The plane landed safely on one engine and fire fighters inspected the engine to ensure the fire was completely out. Crews began to leave the scene just after 9am.

Divisional officer Neil Fenwick, who attended the incident, said: "Our crews made sure the fire was fully out but were not required to take any further action. We left the scene in the hands of the airport.

"This had the potential to be an extremely serious incident but everything which should happen in a situation like this did and the plane was able to land safely and no one has been hurt."

All passengers and crew members disembarked safely before being coached to London City Airport.

A spokeswoman for Southend Airport said: “We were told the plane was coming in to land after suffering technical difficulties.

“It taxied normally to terminal on its own and everyone disembarked before being coached to London City Airport.

“Shortly after the plane landed safely the local and airport emergency services left the scene.”