

## Jobs boost at airport

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Operations director at the airport, David Lister, has said 300 jobs will be created with new terminal. Photo by Martin Dalton

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by Paul Giles

A TOTAL of 300 new jobs will be created when the second phase of Southend Airport's £11.2 million terminal is opened at the end of this month.

The terminal which has taken 14 months to complete will increase the size of the airport by four and a half times.

Jobs will be created through the increase in shops in the terminal and an increase in check in desks.

The number of gates has also doubled from three to four.

It is also hoped that once open more planes will be based at the airport with jobs being supplied for crew members of the plane.

Operations director at the airport, David Lister, explained the increase in size of the airport would ensure customers would get the most efficient service they could.

He said: "It is going to make quite a bit of difference to travellers because there is more space.

"There is a whole host of things that will impact the town through this that are positive.

"We have already been a success story for the region in employment through construction of the terminal and people that work there.

"Some of the people coming through the airport are going on to London and other areas but they are aware of Southend as a town.

"It is better for the town because people will visit Southend and spend money which is good for the economy.

"Last year we dealt with 1 million customers now we have the larger terminal we have the capacity to deal with a lot more people.

"We have a part to play locally and providing jobs is a great part of that.

"We will be advertising the jobs coming up locally and nationally."