

# AIRPORTS UK 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

## FLIGHTPATH TO GROWTH

### 09:00 Registration & Breakfast

#### 09:30 | Welcome & opening remarks

Welcomed by a moderator, the annual conference will begin with a quick outline of the day and opening remarks from the chair and chief executive.

#### 09:40 | Keynote Speech

A change of government brings a different outlook on a wide variety of issues, including aviation. A senior minister from the government will be joining us to outline how airports will be supported to deliver the economic growth the country needs.

#### 10:10 | Industry outlook

Following the opening keynote address, this panel will discuss what airport priorities should be as the new government establishes itself. It will provide expert comment on the challenges facing the industry, as well as the opportunities that we have to position airports as the key driver in economic growth.

#### 10:50 | Networking coffee break

#### 11:20 | Airports' contributions to growth and investment

This session will bring together representatives from airports and the aviation research community with a wealth of experience in how we can bring about growth investment. Panellists will discuss the vital role that we play in the regional economies of the UK. Airports are a key economic enabler that can help bring investment, jobs and import/export opportunities to our local areas.

#### 12:00 | Regional Mayors' fireside chat

Mayoral authorities play a key role in the economic development of their regions and are senior figures outside the Westminster/Whitehall environment. Their views on the role that airports can play in their plans to increase prosperity in areas across the country will be crucial in the coming years, as devolution continues.

#### 12:30 | Networking lunch

#### 13:30 | The view from the airlines CEO interview

Aviation is making big strides in increasing female and diverse voices within the industry, from ground crew, security staff, pilots, cabin crew and terminal staff. More does need to be done, however, and in this session we will hear from a senior executive within the industry about what she would like to see happen.

#### 14:00 | Building a modern workforce

Several areas of operations within the sector have identified significant shortfalls in skills requirements in the coming years, while we continue to lag behind other industries in terms of encouraging more women to consider careers like air traffic control, pilot, engineer, etc. The new government has made tackling skills challenges a key part of its agenda for increasing productivity, and this panel will consider how we, as industry leaders, can rise to this.

#### 14:30 | Networking coffee break

#### 15:00 | The wider political and economic context

Expert commentary from one of Westminster's most well-known journalists, delegates will get insight into how the government will be facing up to country's challenges. They will cover the choices made by the chancellor in

her Budget, the way policy priorities are shaping up, the personalities involved and how the Conservatives in opposition will react and adapt in outlining the next year in Westminster.

#### **15:20 | Improving resilience & the passenger experience**

Airports are the first port of call for those going on holiday or for those entering the UK as tourists or on business. This panel will look at how we are ensuring this experience is as positive as possible, either through helping those with special needs enjoy the same access to travel as everyone else, presenting a welcoming, efficient face to those arriving, and being able to deal with disruptions effectively.

#### **16:00 | Driving environmental and sustainable performance**

Aviation knows that it must fly greener, cleaner and quieter if it is going to be able to grow sustainably and support the government's drive to increase economic growth. The sector was the first to lay out a robust plan for how it would decarbonize and in this panel, guests will discuss progress being made, where we could be doing better and how it can contribute to wider economic prosperity.

#### **16:30 | The view from Westminster**

This panel will feature a speaker who, after many years as a government minister in Government, will offer their reflections on the challenges of delivering a balanced aviation policy framework, working with government departments and regulators and how the industry can best engage with government and opposition in the new parliament.

#### **16:50 | Closing remarks**

Wrapping up the conference and closing remarks from the chair and chief executive of AirportsUK

#### **17:00 – 19:00 | Networking drinks reception**

\*Speakers & timings may be subject to change  
18/10/24