

The North West Public Transport Users Forum

PO Box 4163, Manchester, M60 3ZQ Tel: 0161 817 7416
Email: johnmoorhouse@nwptuf.org.uk Web Site: www.nwptuf.org.uk

PROMOTING QUALITY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

NEWS RELEASE

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BETTER GROUND ACCESS TO AIRPORTS NEEDED

The North West Public Transport Forum heard about major developments at the regions 2 principle airports when it met at Manchester Airport on Saturday 11th February.

At both Liverpool John Lennon Airport and Manchester Airport expanded programmes of flight destinations were now offered and passenger figures were increasing quickly and substantially.

However access to both airports by public transport remains a challenge. At Liverpool a new rail station at Liverpool South Parkway opening later in the year will offer much improved interchange facilities and in 2008 a new platform at Manchester Airport station will improve train capacity. Many potential passengers remain disadvantaged though as there is no convenient link to Liverpool from the north west and some parts of Greater Manchester have no direct airport service whilst north Lancashire and Cumbria's services terminate early in the evening.

Brendan O' Friel, NWPTUF Chairman said, "We are delighted with the investment in easy travel to and from the North West that both airports are making and the continuing growth in European and World destinations on offer is astonishing. However travellers must have confidence that ground transport systems will deliver them safely and conveniently to the airport and perhaps more importantly, get them home on their return. The airports are making great strides, but they cannot do it alone. Transport providers must play their part, as must those at travel points of sale to encourage more use of public transport and get cars off the road. At the moment everything is "long term" by which time it may be too late so we call for some quick wins that can easily be achieved with the infra structure we already possess."

ENDS

Contacts: Brendan O' Friel 01925 268954
John Moorhouse 0161 817 7416
John Owen 01539 563595