

EXTENDING YOUR HORIZONS



George Best
BELFAST
CITY AIRPORT

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a bright blue sky filled with numerous white, fluffy cumulus clouds of various sizes. The clouds are scattered across the frame, with some larger, more prominent ones in the upper and middle sections, and smaller, more numerous ones towards the bottom. The lighting is bright, suggesting a clear day.

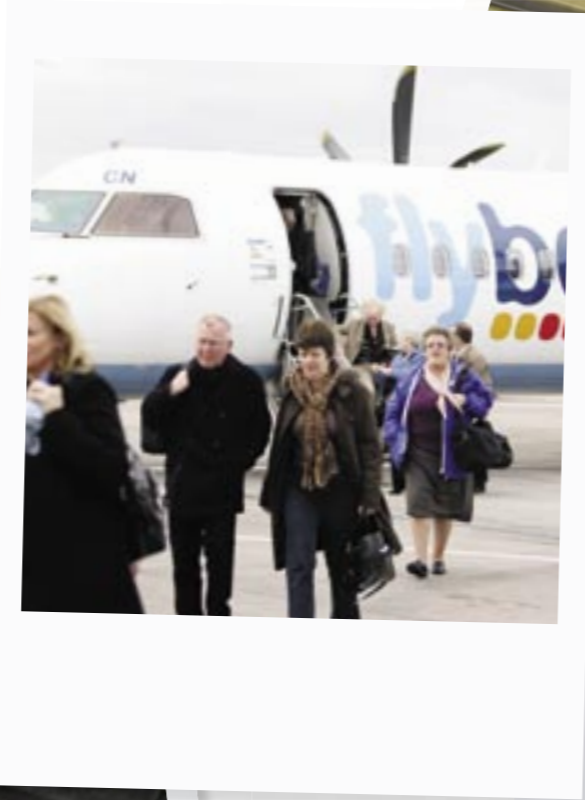
In Autumn 2008
George Best Belfast
City Airport will submit
a planning application
to extend its runway
by 590 metres.

The aim of this booklet is to provide an overview
of the project and explain what the extension will
mean for you.

Why extend the runway?



At present, the length of the existing runway at George Best Belfast City Airport limits the amount of fuel and numbers of passengers permitted to be carried by some aircraft. The result is that some airlines can only fly from current destinations at less than full passenger capacity.

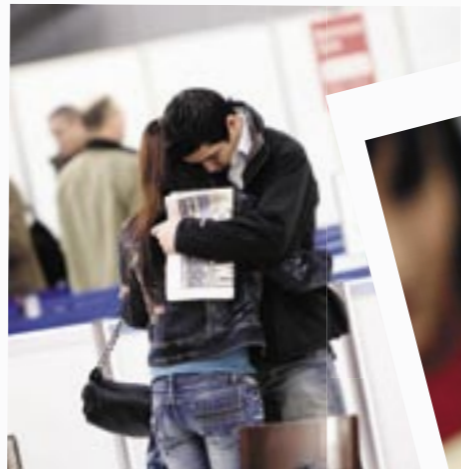




What are the benefits?

An extended runway will facilitate flights to a wider range of European destinations and ensure fuel and passenger efficiencies for the aircraft.

Same planes,
different routes...



The runway extension will **not** entail...

Extra Flights

There will be no extra flights as a result of the runway being extended as the number of flights (Air Traffic Movements) through George Best Belfast City Airport is governed by a separate 'Planning Agreement' between the Airport and the Department of Environment Planning Service. The proposed runway extension would not alter the Planning Agreement.

Bigger aircraft using the runway

Due to other physical limitations of the runway 'wide bodied' aircraft will not be permitted to use the airport. A wide-body aircraft is an aeroplane with two aisles and centre seating. A narrow-body aeroplane does not have seating in the middle and has only one aisle down the centre of the aircraft. Only narrow bodied aircraft use the airport and the proposed runway extension will not change this.

Changes to operating hours

The operating hours of the airport are also governed by the Planning Agreement therefore the runway extension will not alter the existing operating hours which are:

6.30am to 9.30pm – daily operating hours.

9.31pm to 11.59pm – extended hours.

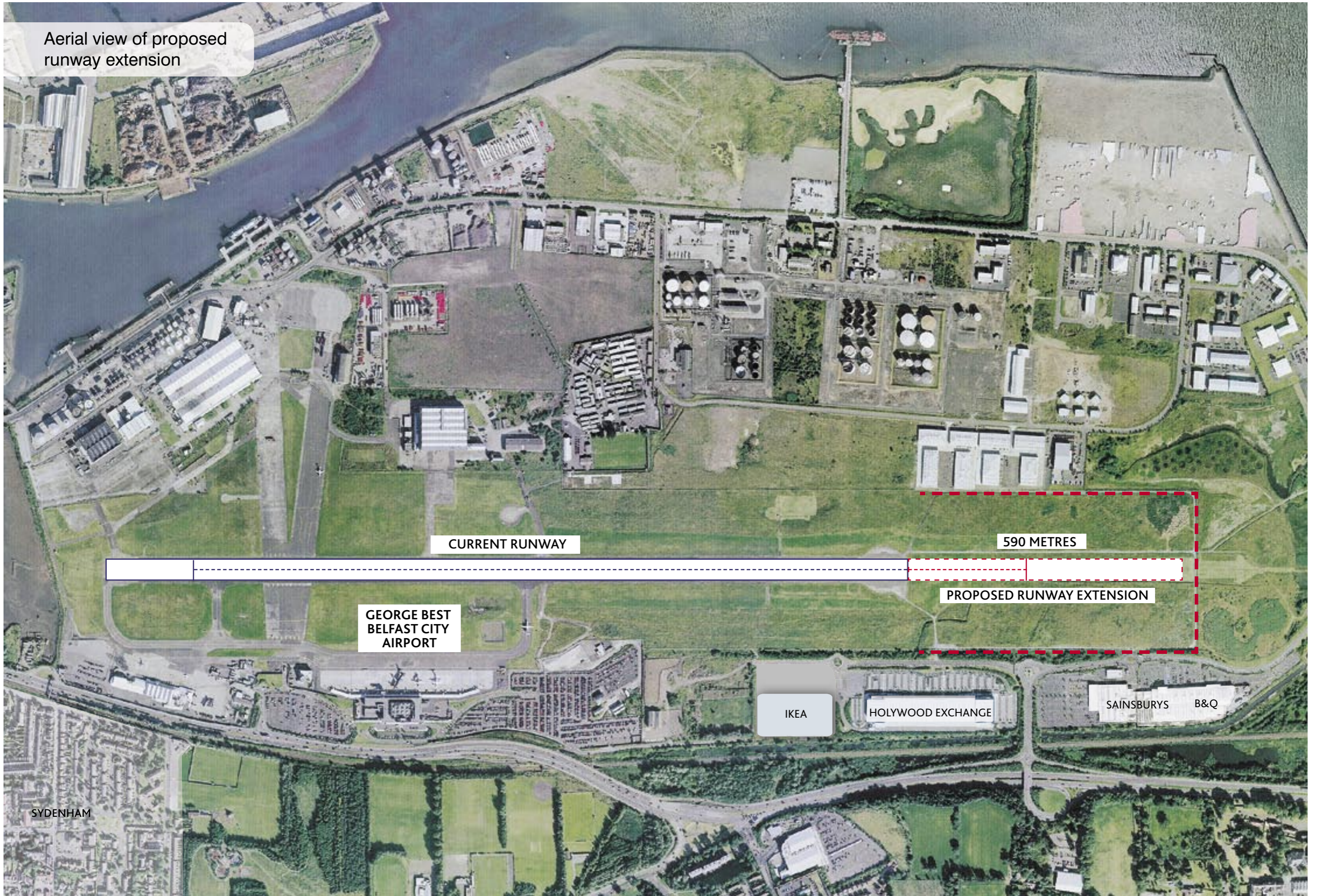
12.00am to 6.29am – all scheduled flights prohibited

Arrivals

Flight	From
BE332	Inverness
NM522	Isle of Man
BE406	Birmingham
BE966	London Gat
BE1432	Paris CDG
FR1436	Prestwick
BD86	London He
BE7018	Mancheste
FR1412	East Midla
BE496	Exeter
E410	Birmingham

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Aerial view of proposed runway extension





Planning Application

Before work can commence on the runway extension, a detailed planning application will be submitted to Planning Service.

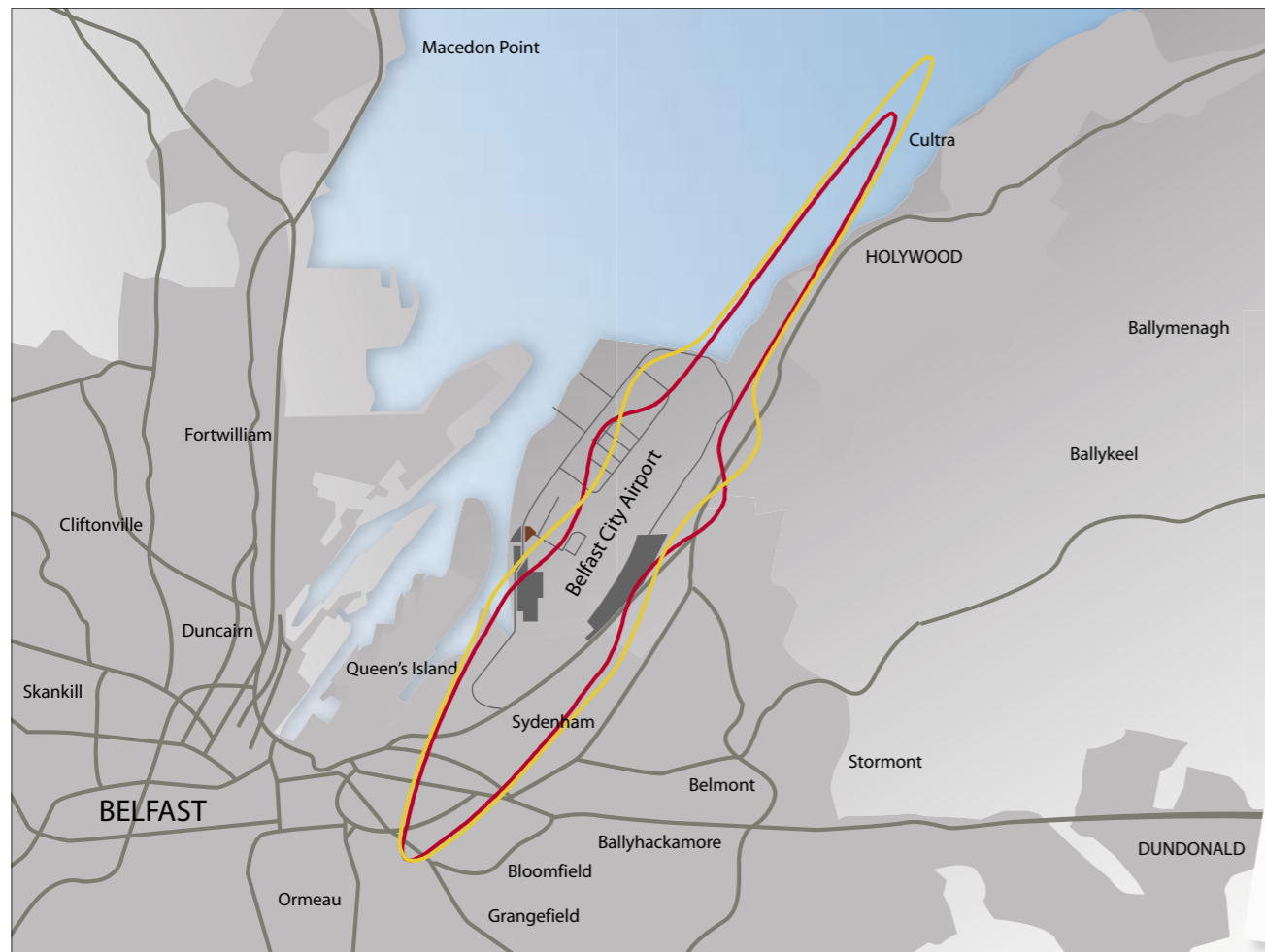
As part of the planning application an extensive environmental study must be completed which will consider issues such as noise, air quality, traffic and wildlife matters.

If you would like to comment on the planning application, you can submit your views to Planning Service once the application is lodged. It will be advertised in the local press and some residents adjacent to the airport should also receive a letter about the application from Planning Service.

Noise Levels

Aircraft noise will be very similar to that currently experienced. The Airport's noise contours will therefore alter only by a small amount. The Airport is installing two permanent noise monitors to continuously monitor operations, and ensure they are carried out as quietly as possible.

- Future Noise Contours
- Current Noise Contours





Questions & Answers

What is the purpose of the proposed runway extension?

The runway extension is to enable airline carriers using the airport to fly passengers to destinations further afield than is possible at present and to ensure fuel and passenger efficiencies on existing routes.

How will the proposed runway extension affect tourism in Northern Ireland?

Additional routes will encourage tourists from new destinations to visit Northern Ireland, further boosting the Northern Ireland economy.

According to research carried out by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, in 2007 over 2 million tourists visited Northern Ireland spending a total of £376 million. On average just under 50% of people arriving into Belfast City Airport are visitors and new routes would help boost tourism numbers further.

Will the runway extension mean larger aircraft will use the Airport?

No. The largest aircraft using the Airport are the Airbus A321 and the Boeing 737-800, both of which are narrow bodied. No wide bodied aircraft will use the airport.

Will the runway extension mean more flights over the City?

No. The majority of flights must operate over Belfast Lough. Currently approximately 55% of flights operate over the Lough.

Will the operating hours change if the runway is extended?

No. The planning agreement with Planning Service restricts scheduled operating hours from 6:30am to 9:30pm daily and these will not change as a result of the runway extension.

How often, on average, do aircraft arrive outside of the permitted operating hours?

Less than 2% of flights operate outside of the Opening Hours. Scheduled flights are prohibited between the hours of 23:59 and 06:30.

What is the Airport doing to monitor pollution?

The Department of the Environment guidelines suggest that airports should begin to monitor local air quality when they reach 5 million passengers per annum (mppa). In 2007, 2.1 million passengers travelled through BCA. The Airport however is already committed to monitoring the effects of its future growth on local air and noise quality and has signed up to the Sustainable Aviation Strategy.

Will the runway extension have a detrimental effect on the wildlife in the area?

Independent experts have considered potential impacts on flora and fauna as part of the environmental impact assessment. They have concluded that the runway extension is unlikely to have any significant impact on ecological interests.

How long would the construction of the extension take?

The estimated total construction time would be six months and would not impact upon any flights during that time.

Are there plans to extend the runway any further in years to come?

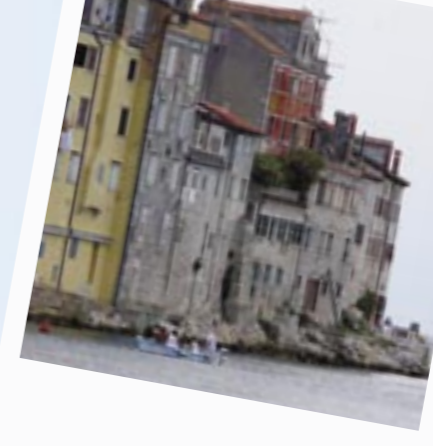
If the runway is extended by 590 metres as proposed, the runway will be at the extremity of the Belfast City Airport perimeter and therefore could not be extended any further.

Will the proposed extension create additional jobs?

Yes. It is believed that the proposed extension will create additional jobs at both George Best Belfast City Airport and in the wider community.

Will the proposed runway extension be privately or publicly funded?

The proposed runway extension will be entirely funded by George Best Belfast City Airport. No public funding will be used whatsoever.



Your Community is our Community

George Best Belfast City Airport is part of the local community. Over two thirds of those employed at the airport live in residential areas such as East Belfast, South Belfast and Holywood.

Airport staff regularly visit schools in the area and host educational visits at the airport. We are involved in various community projects and sponsorships enhancing our ties with the community we serve.

Our strategy is to target our investment in local communities in as many ways as possible, in those areas where the impact of the Airport's operations is at its greatest and where our support can have the most effect.

The views of the local community are important to us. Feel free to get in touch, we want to know what you think.

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