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Dear Sirs

### **East Devon District Council – Airports Commission Consultation Response**

To be read in conjunction with the response from the Heart of the South West local Enterprise Partnership.

Exeter Airport is located in the Exeter & East Devon Growth Point, an area with a programme of delivery of 20,000 new homes and 25,000 jobs by 2026. The Airport already supports around 2,000 jobs in the locality and therefore it is a significant economic driver.

Access to the Airport is being improved, with funding secured through the Regional Growth Fund, with works planned to start during the autumn of 2014. This will improve access to both the Airport and the Flybe Training Academy. Previous development in this area has included the development of the Hampton @ Hilton hotel which was built primarily to serve airport customers.

More strategically the Exeter Science Park is being developed 2 miles away from the Exeter Airport. This development, within a 60 acre site, is building on the success of Exeter, as a thriving economic centre and regional city, as well as links with the University of Exeter. The Exeter Science Park is being delivered in partnership by University of Exeter, Met Office, Homes & Communities Agency and the Local Authorities, providing an opportunity of developing world class science and technology in an area recognised for its outstanding quality of life. The accessibility of the science park is critical to its success, with the Exeter to London City flights (from October 2014) reducing travel time to just 80 minutes. This will enable and encourage national and international collaboration. It is envisaged that the science park centre will support investment in start-ups as well as research and development across a range of science technology, medicine and engineering fields.

The Exeter Sky Park, a business park located on land adjacent to the airport, is also being developed. This site is 100 acres and is predicted to deliver 6,000 new jobs in the next 20 years. A key benefit of locating new and existing businesses on Sky Park is the access to excellent transport infrastructure links, with improved access to the M5, a new railway station at the nearby settlement of Cranbrook and its close proximity to the airport. The importance of accessibility and connectivity of the site was quickly identified by the Ambulance Special

Operations Centre that located recently opened on the site, this site chosen for its close access by road and air links, providing good access across the South West.

Tourism is also an important part of the East Devon economy, 12.1% of jobs in East Devon are in accommodation and food services. The location of Exeter Airport provides good access to visitors to the area, both internally and internationally. This is an area that has the potential to develop significantly.

Supporting the re-growth of the Airport and securing the necessary investment to support this is a key objective of the local partners. Improvements to the surface access coupled with the start of the new route to City Airport are two key events that will happen later this year and help to give confidence that these objectives can be secured. This will undoubtedly be bolstered by a supportive national aviation framework.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Deputy Chief Executive.

Deputy Chief Executive