

27 October 2014

LEP welcomes appointment of Flybe as Newquay to Gatwick operator

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership has welcomed an announcement today (27 October) that Flybe has been awarded the contract to operate air services between Newquay Cornwall Airport and London Gatwick for the next four years.

The announcement was made by Aviation Minister Robert Goodwill and Adam Paynter, Cornwall Council's Cabinet Member for Partnerships, at Newquay Cornwall Airport.

The contract, which starts immediately, will see Flybe operate three daily return flights on weekdays year-round, plus a weekend service that may vary slightly according to the time of year. The flights are supported by up to £2.8 million of Government funding through a Public Service Obligation (PSO) which was confirmed last year.

Chris Pomfret, chairman of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership, said: "The business community in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly will be breathing a collective sigh of relief that these flights have not only been secured for the next four years but at times that work for them and to an established hub airport.

"Given the critical role that regional air services play in supporting our economy, the LEP worked closely with Cornwall Council, local MPs and the business community to make the case for a PSO and we welcome Flybe's appointment."

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Note to Editors

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership drives activity to support business growth, create jobs and help people realise their potential.

We are led by local business people working together with Cornwall Council and the Council of the Isles of Scilly to set priorities for how our economy should grow.

Our role is to decide how best to invest **over £1 billion** of public, private and European funds in the local economy by 2020.

We want to build on our traditional strengths in bedrock industries such as tourism, agriculture, food and marine and pioneer new industries that make the most of our special environment, such as renewable energy, agricultural technology and the digital economy.

Our guiding principle is making sure the culture, communities and environment of Cornwall and Isles of Scilly remain special and unique.

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