

The Employment Network Manager has been in post since 2004 and has over the past few years developed good working relationships with a range of partners. An Employment Forum was established in late 2004 and comprises a large proportion of companies based on the airport site, the economic development teams of the relevant local authorities, JobCentre Plus, the Learning and Skills Councils and a number of training providers. These partnerships will continue to be developed in order to ensure that new job opportunities can be targeted effectively.

Initiatives aimed at better linking residents living within key identified areas (in particular Derby, Leicester and Nottingham) with job opportunities have been significantly stepped up over the past few years through targeted jobs fairs, promotion of jobs via a dedicated web site www.nemarecruitment.com, good quality public transport, affordable fares and tailored travel information for potential new employees.

Our commitment to use Airport growth to increase local employment and support urban regeneration in the three cities as well as other key towns in the area has been welcomed. Our intention is to build on the EDS which identified three areas that have potential as locations for airport related development to support expansion of EMA – Clifton/South Nottingham, Loughborough and South Derby. Other areas such as parts of North West Leicestershire, South Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire (e.g. Mansfield) are also included within our strategy. Improved public transport to these areas is therefore a key objective, in order to extend successfully the Airport's employment catchment into those parts of the conurbations where social and economic regeneration is the main focus. We will therefore continue to target recruitment along existing transport links, and to create new transport links to targeted areas where these do not yet exist.

We aim to increase further the percentage of these residents employed through improved training and skills. Our policy is to raise the skills base regionally through partnership working, to ensure that the local workforce is equipped with the skills needed to fill the vast range of job opportunities that will develop as the Airport grows. The emda-commissioned Skills Study (December 2004) showed large gaps in skills with a quarter of employers reporting skills needs including management skills. The 2005 Airport Employee survey backs these findings with evidence that nearly 30% of all employees do not have 5 GCSEs. In addition, there are significant gaps in basic skills – particularly numeracy and literacy levels – in those conurbations that are being specifically targeted for social and economic regeneration and therefore recruitment.

The Airport aims to remedy this over the next ten years through the launch of a 'EMA Skills Academy' which will be able to access National Vocational Training at all levels by tapping into Government funded training initiatives, thereby filling the skills gap by 2016.

The Airport is committed to addressing wide-ranging employment issues including the development of flexible employment opportunities, working with disadvantaged groups, training in basic skills and addressing employability through for example work experience schemes. We will also assist in overcoming other barriers in returning to work, including child care facilities on site. The Airport provides jobs across the full range of skills, from entry level upwards. The value of low skill/entry level jobs should not be underestimated as fewer jobs of this nature are available since the decline in traditional manufacturing industries.

In relation to Employment, Learning and Skills, the issues for the EDS are more to do with ensuring that Airport-related companies have access to supplies of appropriately skilled labour than with directly achieving the objectives of the Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action (FRESA). However, the continued expansion of the Airport will assist significantly in the attraction of priority clusters (such as motorsports, aerospace, fashion, bio-science and new media) and other sectors that will generate a demand for higher level skills, thus moving the regional economy up the value chain.

2.3.3 Logistics

For most businesses located in England, access to the express hub at EMA reduces transit times for shipments and assists in promoting competitive advantage over companies based elsewhere in the UK, Europe and throughout the global market.

In most cases global logistics operators enhance rather than detract from the viability of local haulage companies businesses. The argument that profits made by global companies may not remain in the UK does not take into account the overall economic contribution of the sector to the local and UK economy through job creation and the 'spin off' effects of inward investment and competitive advantage to local businesses of access to global markets.

The promotion and development of the logistics industry and locating manufacturing facilities within 30 to 60 minutes' drive of the Airport will therefore enhance the competitiveness of existing industry, as well as stimulating inward investment.

A report published in January 2006 by Oxford Economic Forecasting, 'The Economic Impact of Express Carriers for UK plc' established clear evidence on which to base plans for development and growth of express freight services at EMA.