

## HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSAL

The LOX proposal is for a four runway airport as a solution to the impending crisis in airport capacity in the South East region of the United Kingdom, with the aim of consolidating London as the 'global city' of Europe. It is put forward as the 'Best Practicable Environmental Option' for airport development in the region.

The location of the airport, in the Vale of the White Horse near Abingdon in Oxfordshire, in relation to centres of demand would mean that it could be well used without the need for market intervention by the Government. This location also leads to reduced surface transport access costs and times – and, since the location also obviates the need to travel through the congested London metropolitan area, enhances its relative accessibility to the wider British travelling public.

The associated infrastructure improvements, which include a new Thames crossing, a motorway link between the M4 and M40 and a possible westward extension to the HS2 rail project, would result in major national and regional economic benefits.

In offering a new capacity for 125 million passengers a year and some 720,000 annual air transport movements, LOX would meet the long-term demand for air travel in the UK and thus end the enduring uncertainty and anxiety which have afflicted the London region for decades – but with lower environmental impacts than are possible with any expansion of an existing London airport.

The project is estimated to cost £18.2 billion and the associated investment in major infrastructure £3.3 billion. The comparative costs per passenger of LOX are significantly lower than the equivalent published costs for the expansion of any existing London airport and particularly for any estuarine proposal.

The airport is unlikely to open before 2023.