
Newcastle Airport completes first phase of £14m departure lounge development

By **Tanya Filippelli** on April, 24 2014 | Airline & Terminal News



Newcastle International Airport has completed the first phase of a £14m development to transform its airside departure lounge for passengers.

As well as offering new shops, restaurants, cafes and bar areas, over the next year the departure lounge layout will be changed in order to provide a more straightforward journey for customers.

"The departure lounge development will completely transform the airside experience for our customers," said Dave Laws, chief executive at Newcastle Airport. "We are confident that the new layout will be more intuitive and will help passengers to make a more informed choice on where they shop, eat, drink or simply relax before their flight."

The first phase of the development saw additional dining and leisure spaces open for passengers in April 2014 including American-style diner The Beer House, real ale bar and restaurant Flying Hippo, and the largest Aspire Lounge in the UK.

The next major phase will begin in autumn 2014, with most work expected to be completed by May 2015. Highlights still to come include a new walk-through World Duty Free store as well as new food and beverage outlets soon to be announced. Newcastle will also improve the layout and design of the departures lounge for passengers with curved walkways, seating areas and streamlined shop fronts.

The departure lounge will have a modern and vibrant shopping centre feel. Existing brands such as WHSmith, Boots, Travelex, Accessorize and Traveller will move into new stores, while additional new brands will join the airport before the project is finished in summer 2015.

"The development, where possible, will capture the flavors and sense of the North East. We are using local suppliers and ingredients whenever we can to make the customer feel relaxed and at home, whilst showcasing the best of what we have for visitors," added Gill Caleary, commercial director at Newcastle International Airport.