

# Shannon shock as Cork moves to second place

By **RON KIRWAN**

**SHANNON** Airport is expected to fall behind both Dublin and Cork Airports in its share of total air traffic into Ireland by the year 2002, a shock report has warned.

Shannon is currently in second place ahead of Cork with 14 per cent of all air traffic to Dublin's 77 per cent. Cork Airport is third and last with nine per cent of total traffic.

But this is expected to change within five years as Cork Airport inches past Shannon's dwindling 8.9 per cent market share by handling 9.2 per cent of the total, the Mid-West Business Forum has warned.

The high-powered group from IBEC in the Mid-West. Shannon

Region Hotels Federation and the Chambers of Commerce of Limerick and Ennis have already briefed Transport Minister Mary O'Rourke on Shannon's slide and pointed to Cork's growth in terminal, domestic and UK traffic in comparison to services at Shannon Airport.

According to the IBEC president Seamus O'Sullivan, Shannon is losing its share of traffic even though passenger numbers are increasing and said that every survey of the region's 1,500 businesses continues to highlight the need for improved road infrastructure to improve Shannon's catchment area, lower fares, a daily service to Continental Europe and better and earlier services to and from London.