

## Government News

### 15 August 2012 - [Liberal Democrats against airport expansion in London](#)

Liberal Democrats have outlined opposition to a new airport or expansion in the South East of the UK, including Heathrow. The party, which is part of the Conservative-led coalition UK government, is set to rule out support for a proposed airport in the Thames Estuary and will also repeat its opposition to new runways at Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted.

The proposals will be put to party members at the Liberal Democrat conference in September ([page 19, agenda](#)). The party will call instead for an independent study to find a location for a new hub airport or an existing airport that is suitable for expansion.

### 15 August 2012 - [New operator for West Coast rail passengers](#)

Rail passengers from London to Scotland will benefit from a package of improvements including more trains and more seats. Transport Minister Theresa Villiers unveiled First West Coast Limited as the new operator for the 'InterCity West Coast' franchise.

### 16 August 2012 - [Stop 'pussyfooting' and build London a new airport, Boris Johnson tells David Cameron](#)

Boris Johnson accused the Prime Minister of "pussyfooting around" and calling him "totally mad" for delaying a decision on building a new airport to serve the South-East of England. The Mayor hit out over the delay of consultation into the expansion of airport capacity. He insisted that South-East England needed a new airport to meet rapidly growing demand, arguing that building a third runway at Heathrow would not be sufficient. "The Government needs to stop pussy-footing around. I don't think you can rely on Heathrow," he told the London Evening Standard.

## SASIG 2012/13 Meeting Dates

**The next SASIG meetings will be on:**

**Thursday 25 October 2012 – 1.00pm – 3.00pm**

**CANCELLED:** Friday 9 November 2012

Friday 1 March 2013 – 11am – 1.00pm

Meetings are held at Local Government House, Smith Square, SW1P 3HZ, with lunch provided afterwards; [location map](#).

## Press Releases

### 10 August 2012 - [RMT pledges fight for jobs and services as west coast franchise announcement imminent](#) - Rail, Maritime and Transport union

### 15 August 2012 - [Reaction to First Group takeover of West Coast InterCity](#) - Rail, Maritime and Transport union

### 15 August 2012 - [Chief Executive of Birmingham Airport responds to Jeremy Hunt, Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport Secretary's calls for improved flight connections to China](#) - Birmingham Airport

## Events

### 27 September 2012 – [A New Aviation Policy: What does the UK really need?](#) - London

### 29 November 2012 - [The EU Emissions Trading System: progress, global issues and Phase III](#) – London

Short courses:

### 3rd-5th October 2012 - [Introduction to Air Transport Economics and Planning](#)

### 7th-9th November 2012 - [Demand Analysis and Capacity Management](#)

### 3rd-5th December 2012 - [Introduction to Air Transport Business and Management](#)

## SASIG News

You can now keep up to date with the latest SASIG news via our 'Latest News' webpage (<http://sasig.org.uk/category/latest-news/>). Some articles on this page may require you to log in. If you do not know your username and password, please contact the SASIG Office.

A database of Local Enterprise Partnerships and university research departments can now be found in the '[Latest News](#)' section of the website.