

Item 10: SASIG Forward Look and future planning

Background: On 7th June 2017, CAG held an additional meeting under Chatham House rules to take a forward-look at SASIG's current structure, activities and the likely demands on its resources over the next two years. The view then, and Item 5 on this agenda confirms, that this is likely to be an exceptionally busy period in terms of aviation policy development, which will impose significant demands on SASIG if it is to respond effectively and have the influence on policy outcomes that it would like to see. In terms of resourcing, managing and prioritising the next two years, the following key objectives were identified:

- a. ensure adequate resources are available for targeted research, commissioned independently or jointly, and for promoting/disseminating its findings;
- b. develop a policy manifesto, modus operandi and public profile that will reflect the aspirations of existing members, help to recruit potential new members, resonate with a wider audience (especially local community groups and political representatives) and attract positive media attention;
- c. expend greater effort ensuring member officers and Councillors have ready access to the latest intelligence, SASIG in-house expertise, discussion forums, written advice/position papers and important decision-makers, relevant to policy issues of greatest interest;
- d. seek more effective collaboration and co-ordination of messages with like-minded partners - e.g. the LGA and other SIGs, city mayors, Core Cities & Key Cities, LEPs/DMOs, devolved administrations (including Transport or the North and the Midlands Engine), AoA/RABA, Chambers of Commerce, and where appropriate UKACC's);
- e. enhance SASIG's standing in Government and with other policy makers and influencers, by leveraging its increased membership, adopting a higher media profile, engaging in more direct political lobbying, with a view to secure greater influence over key officials, Ministers and their advisors on SASIG's policy priorities;

Strategy: SASIG is now clearly recognised by DfT and a number of industry bodies as the voice of Local Authorities on aviation. It is an active member of Departmental discussion groups, has received presentations from DfT officials at its meetings and has been given access to Ministers regularly. This represents positive progress, but key objectives must be to extend and deepen this engagement and see more tangible outcomes from its influence. It will then be important highlight when these are achieved and focus on the best methods for ensuring they continue to be delivered moving forward.

CAG took the view that the best way of securing this is by generating new ideas, proposals and solutions that are based on targeted research and therefore good evidence and then to ensure they are well presented, effectively disseminated and actively discussed with key partners and political influencers and policy makers. To achieve this we need to engage existing members more closely, encourage new members to join and reach out to strategic partners, ensure local

SASIG Meeting: 16th November 2017

MP's are properly briefed and meet Government agencies (e.g. CAA, NATS), officials and Ministers regularly.

Work Undertaken, in Progress or Planned: This comprises the following:

- i. Meeting with Department for Transport Senior Policy Advisors (August) to discuss wider airspace and noise reforms and the role of local authorities in implementing them.
- ii. Attending forums/meetings including ANEG, DEFRA, CAA Discussion Forum.
- iii. Submission of an extended response to the Aviation Strategy consultation following two member discussion groups.
- iv. Engagement with RABA, AEF and Sustainable Aviation.
- v. Website update and roll out – this will improve SASIG's online presence, the dissemination of information within the Group and to external audiences. It will also facilitate sponsorship and the development of an affiliate membership scheme.
- vi. Participating in meeting with CAA Board.
- vii. Forthcoming meeting with AOA CEO to discuss collaborative issues.
- viii. Setting-up meetings with LGA to secure their more active engagement on aviation policy and with other local authorities to discuss prospective membership.
- ix. Arrange a meeting (or meetings) with LEP's, Core Cities, Key Cities, TfN and representatives of the BoCC.
- x. Formal request for more active engagement with DfT officials to discuss key policy areas and for a meeting with the new Aviation Minister to discuss SASIG contribution to the development of the Aviation Strategy.
- xi. Seek to participate in Transport Select Committee and APPG inquiries.
- xii. Increase engagement with local MP's and a mechanism for keeping them informed.

Recommendations:

- **that SASIG members endorse the recommendations of the CAG Review on the direction of travel for SASIG**
- **note the work that has been undertaken to date;**
- **approve the proposed programme of initiatives over the coming months and;**
- **commit to actively supporting them wherever they can, working closely with the Chair and Secretariat.**