



## National aviation policy

Since the May 2010 General Election, and the formation of a coalition Government, we have entered a new era in aviation policy.

The major airport developments supported in the prevailing policy - the 2003 'Air Transport White Paper' - have been abandoned by the coalition Government. In addition, the High Court has determined the 2003 policy unjustified in the light of UK climate change policy.

Tough decisions have to be made now about how to reconcile the competing concerns of local communities, passengers, airlines and airport operators.

The coalition Government has set an agenda of 'localism' amidst the nation's essential economic recovery measures. Local Authorities will be called upon to deliver both of these ambitious programmes.

The Government's forthcoming agenda includes production of the Airports National Policy Statement, and now is an important opportunity for SASIG Authorities to exert influence.

# SASIG

Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group  
of the Local Government Association

## Developing UK Aviation Policy

# Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group – SASIG

**SASIG** – the Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association – has been working for Local Authorities on aviation policy since 1999, and is looking ahead at an exciting time of change.

**SASIG** supplies a coordinated approach to pool resources and provide a leading focus on aviation issues of most importance to Local Authorities.

**SASIG** supplies technical advice and expertise to the membership in a cost-effective way.

**SASIG** works with Government, the aviation industry and other stakeholders to communicate the need to realise the benefits of aviation for local communities, communicate the need to realise the benefits of aviation for local communities, alongside minimising the adverse impacts.

**SASIG** has a major role to play in driving the direction of future aviation policy – looking ahead towards 2050 – to ensure it takes full account of local as well as national need.



## Collaboration

### **SASIG collaborates at a number of different levels:-**

- with Central Government 'Transport', 'Environment', and 'Communities & Local Government' Departments;
- through Parliamentary channels, such as Select Committees, All-Party Parliamentary Groups, and advisory bodies;
- at the European level, with a similarly constituted group - the 'Airport Regions Conference' (ARC);
- with the Local Government Association as one of its special interest groups;
- with airline and airport operators, as well as industry groupings such as the 'Sustainable Aviation Initiative';
- academic collaborations such as Omega - 'Opportunities for mitigating the environmental effects of the growth of aviation'; and
- non-Governmental organisations such as the 'Aviation Environment Federation', 'Environmental Protection UK', and European-wide 'Transport & Environment'.





## SASIG's structure and activities

Councillors and officers from the SASIG membership take decisions at SASIG meetings held three times a year. The member Authorities are kept up to date via the fortnightly SASIG Bulletin of industry, Parliamentary and media news. Topical news is emailed to the membership, and more long-term issues are reported on the website.

### The SASIG office team deliver and coordinate work in the following areas:

- advising on the ways open to Local Authorities to minimise the environmental effects of aviation, particularly noise, night flights, air pollution and surface transport;
- collecting, analysing and disseminating technical and political information affecting airport planning, to and from the membership;
- reacting to and influencing aviation and environmental legislation;
- taking part in technical work, Government working parties and conferences;
- sharing and promoting good practice for airport area planning;
- advising the Local Government Association on any aviation issue; and
- promoting the need for a rolling review of the national aviation strategy.

## SASIG membership

The national aviation policy needs to be rewritten, and a co-ordinated voice from Local Authorities can give a powerful steer to that process. SASIG is the vehicle through which this dialogue will yield an appropriate national strategy.

A major strength of the group is its geographical spread across England, providing the basis for Local Authority representation on strategic aviation matters.

Your communities have a vital interest in aviation policy, whether as passengers or because of the economic, social and environmental effects of any airport in your region.

The benefits of SASIG membership can be extended to your Local Authority.

To discuss this exciting opportunity, simply contact the SASIG office: (020) 8541 9459, [sasig@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:sasig@surreycc.gov.uk), [www.sasig.org.uk](http://www.sasig.org.uk).

### SASIG contact details

Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group – SASIG  
PO Box 1308  
Kingston upon Thames  
KT1 2WF

**Tel.** (020) 8541 9459

**Fax.** (020) 8541 9447

**Email:** [sasig@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:sasig@surreycc.gov.uk)

**Web:** [www.sasig.org.uk](http://www.sasig.org.uk)

# SASIG

Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group  
of the Local Government Association

June 2010

SASIG forms the only major alliance in the country that brings together communities comprising airport users and non-users, airport and airline staff, and encompassing all political parties. This gives SASIG an authoritative voice on airport policy that no other group can claim.