



STRATEGIC AVIATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP
of the Local Government Association

**ITEM 2: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING.
(CAG Meeting 25 September 2014; SASIG Meeting 27 June 2014)**

Note of last Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group meeting

Title: Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group
Date: Friday 27 June 2014
Venue: Westminster Suite, 8th Floor
 Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance & apologies

An attendance and apologies list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note.

Item Discussion, decisions and actions

1 Airports Commission Secretariat

The Chairman welcomed representatives from the Airports Commission Secretariat and invited Stephen Howe to present on the Commission’s Discussion Paper 06: ‘Utilisation of the UK’s Existing Airport Capacity’.

An overview of the Airports Commission process was given, explaining the nature of the Interim Report provided at the end of 2013 setting out:

- assessment of the need for additional capacity;
- recommendations for immediate actions to improve the use of existing capacity; and
- short-list of potential expansion options.

A final report is due to be completed by the Summer of 2015 with:

- recommendations for the optimum approach to meeting the UK’s international connectivity needs; and
- recommendations for ensuring that the needs are met as expeditiously as possible.

The Airports Commission is also considering domestic connectivity as a whole.

The current Discussion Paper is a call for evidence, focusing on utilising the UK’s existing airport capacity, split into four main areas:

- connectivity at regional airports;
- market trends at regional airports;
- options to support regional airports; and
- other airports in London and the South East.



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Phil Graham, Head of the Airports Commission Secretariat, gave an outline of where the Commission is currently at, and where it is moving to next. The process of developing the Interim Report and the Commission's initial view, along with the options for additional airport capacity in the short-, medium- and long-term, were discussed.

The following points were raised by the SASIG membership, with Phil Graham responding as below:

SASIG: Discussion Paper uses out of date data for certain regional airports.

SASIG: Impact of the proposed new rail line 'High Speed 2' on airport capacity.

SASIG: Where are safety and security dealt with in the Discussion Paper?

Secretariat: Included within the 16 modules of the Appraisal Framework there is comprehensive analysis that takes into account safety and security issues.

SASIG: Figures used in compiling data are often from airport operators so how are they unbiased?

Secretariat: The Airports Commission will not be purely relying on figures given by airport operators. Instead, they are conducting independent analysis in all areas, especially on passenger demand forecasts and scenarios.

AC recognises surface access is crucial to getting airport development proposal right. Want to manage impacts on other local transport users; AC needs to be very sceptical of scheme promoters' submission on this, and is looking very closely at this in the 'cost & commercial viability' module of the Appraisal Framework.

SASIG: How benefits/impacts will be assessed, e.g. monetisation?

Secretariat: Comparison of findings will be made via the Green Book and WEBTAG, except noise, which is being looked at using the DfT standard approach, but do recognise concerns about applying road and rail noise assessment method to aviation noise. So, will also use a different approach to monetising noise impacts, and 'quality adjusted life years' (QALY) to assess the health impacts.

Concerns regarding just using monetisation as the sole form of analysis are also shared by the Airports Commission, who are looking at alternative ways of providing information, albeit that is one approach to bring everything together for evaluation.

So, also looking at quality of life impacts in the round – employment benefits, access to connectivity; overall ecosystem effects. And are making a rich palette of information available to the AC for their consideration – e.g. frequency metrics in addition to average noise metrics.

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SASIG: Will the Commission be taking the view that airport operators should contribute a



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significant amount towards infrastructure costs? And will the Commission mandate that surface access be delivered in advance of on-airport development?

Secretariat: Whilst not second-guessing the recommendations, surface access is a crucial consideration as is the impact on other local transport users and under the headings of 'Cost' and 'Viability' in the Appraisal Framework the Commission are looking very closely at who should pay for what.

SASIG: Concerns relating to the raising of planning caps without sufficient assessment of infrastructure.

Secretariat: AC will not raise or lower any planning caps, but may make recommendations in that regard. And these recommendations will be made in light of infrastructure, especially surface access – importance of that is recognised.

The AC is exploring how planning caps can be linked to capacity through mechanisms such as noise envelopes, etc..

SASIG: Surface access to Heathrow Airport?

Secretariat: There is insufficient information to date on which to make a firm view about surface access to Heathrow Airport.

It has been recommended that a further study be undertaken into surface access to Heathrow (link through Waterloo and/or to the West through Woking). Network Rail is working on this at the moment.

SASIG: Whether or not an extra runway at Heathrow would exceed EU air quality limits?

Secretariat: The major issue with pollution surrounding Heathrow centres on road users. Heathrow Airport Ltd.'s proposals argue that they can increase airport capacity without a significant increase in road users. The Airports Commission will be reviewing Heathrow Airport Ltd.'s proposals to assess whether or not they are deliverable.

Not in a position to say whether or not air quality limits can/cannot be met. The Appraisal Framework is the route through which this is being assessed.

SASIG: Assessment in terms of the local, as well as national, economy.

AND

SASIG: Lack of focus in the data on the value of carrying freight.

Secretariat: Interested in SASIG views on this. It may be a false dichotomy to see this as the national economy *versus* the local economy. Local airports do not just provide connectivity; however, AC has struggled to get robust data about other activities such as freight – AC eager to receive data regarding freight. AC recognises that passengers are not the full picture – freight; maintenance, repair & overhaul (MRO); flight schools/training; etc..

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SASIG: How any new independent noise authority would differ from what is in place currently?

Secretariat: The new independent noise authority is likely to have a statutory role in publishing advice and research into aviation noise and could potentially possess powers of arbitration.

SASIG: Approach to aviation's carbon dioxide emissions in light of significant burden this places on other UK sectors.

Secretariat: Committee on Climate Change (CCC) considers that the AC's recommended additional runway can be accommodated in UK carbon budgets.

SASIG: Criteria for/distinction of a 'London airport' in the Interim Report and the Discussion Paper?

Secretariat: In the Interim Report, London airports are considered to be: Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Luton and London City.

Must also consider general aviation activity at London airports.

SASIG: Process through which an application for airport development would pass for approval? (as a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP), Hybrid Bill(s), or another route)

Secretariat: A Discussion Paper is being produced on this topic, also covering blight, compensation, etc., which it is hoped will be published before the Summer. (EDITOR'S NOTE: Discussion Paper 07: 'Deliverability' was published on 1 July 2014).

The AC is aware that airport operators prefer the NSIP process.

SASIG: Alignment with National Networks National Policy Statement (NN NPS)?

(NN NPS may be designated in early 2015, and may include specific proposals for surface connectivity improvements)

Secretariat: There are Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in place with the Highways Agency & Network Rail. The AC is using available information as and when it is available. The AC recognises the value of citing publications/issues that may yet affect their recommendations.

SASIG: Timing and format of public consultation due in Autumn 2014.

Secretariat: An October launch is being worked to by the AC, for a 10 to 12-week consultation.

Scale of considerations so great that AC determined to look at Inner Thames Estuary option in more detail, and not shortlist an estuary option.

In September 2014, the AC will decide whether or not to shortlist the Inner Thames Estuary option. This will result in a review of the timetable, however, will consult as soon as possible.

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SASIG: Future-proofing?Terminal 6 at Heathrow?



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Secretariat: AC feels you cannot read into 'Heathrow + 1' that does not necessarily lead to Heathrow being the appropriate place for further expansion.

2 Constitutional Matters

Election of Chairman and Vice- Chairman

The SASIG Director reported that all copies of the nomination form for the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen had been received, and those duly elected were:

Chairman - Councillor Jamie Macrae (Cheshire East Council)

Vice-Chairman - Councillor Mike Goodman (Surrey County Council)

Vice-Chairman - Councillor Jackie Cheetham (Uttlesford DC)

Vice-Chairman - Councillor Andrew Bosmans (Doncaster MBC)

Review of SASIG Constitution

Decision

The SASIG membership **approved** the amendments to the SASIG Constitution:

- i. text at paragraph 4 part (ix) of the draft Constitution explains the opportunity to secure a discounted membership rate for Authorities joining as functional, recognised groups; and
- ii. subscription rates are detailed as agreed at the 6 March 2014 SASIG meeting.

3 Note of the Last Meeting

The SASIG Director reiterated the request for Councillors attending the LGA Annual Conference to contact the SASIG office in order to arrange support for the effective marketing of SASIG.

The date of the first SASIG meeting of 2015 was confirmed as being Friday 6 March 2015. (originally listed as Friday 13 March – please delete Friday 13 March 2015)

The note of the last meeting was **agreed**.

4 Annual Report

The SASIG membership **noted** the SASIG 2014 Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board, with the amendment that Slough Borough Council is in membership of the LGA and



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SASIG.

Action

Amend SASIG 2014 Annual Report to show corrected membership list including Slough Borough Council.

5 Dates for the next meetings

Friday 24 October 2014

Friday 6 March 2015

(originally listed as Friday 13 March – please delete record for Friday 13 March 2015)



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Appendix A

Attendees

Position/Role	Name	Authority
Chairman Vice-Chairmen	Cllr Jamie Macrae	Cheshire East Council
	Cllr Andrew Bosmans	Doncaster MBC
	Cllr Mike Goodman	Surrey CC
	Cllr Jackie Cheetham	Uttlesford DC
Membership	Cllr Nigel Shaw	Broadland DC
	John Walchester	Broadland DC
	Sarah Gibson	Buckinghamshire CC
	Neil Clark	Cornwall Council
	Cllr Colin Moffatt	Crawley BC
	Rachel Cordery	Crawley BC
	Stephen King	Doncaster MBC
	Cllr Mike Carver	East Herts DC
	Zhanine Oates	Essex CC
	Cllr Ian Reay	Hertfordshire CC
	Ajit Bansal	LB Hounslow
	Cllr Charles Yarwood	Mole Valley DC
	John Coates	LB Richmond
	Cllr Andrew Mellor	Slough BC
	Paul Mathieson	Southend BC
	Sue Janota	Surrey CC
Andrew Taylor	Uttlesford DC	
Steve Bailes	Uttlesford DC	
Cllr David Sleight	Wokingham BC	
LGA Officers	Joseph Cormack	Members' Services Officer
SASIG Officers	Anna Mahoney	SASIG Director
	Mark Mason	SASIG Information Officer
Observer attendee	Cllr John Fareham	Hull City Council
External attendees	Phil Graham	Head of Airports Commission Secretariat
	Stephen Howe	Airports Commission Secretariat
	David Elvy	Communications Manager, Airports Commission Secretariat

Apologies

Name	Authority
Richard Worrall	SASIG Honorary President
Val Beale	LB Hillingdon



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**NOTES OF THE CHAIRMAN'S ADVISORY GROUP (CAG) MEETING HELD
FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Attendees:	Cllr Jamie Macrae - SASIG Chairman	(Cheshire East Council)
	Cllr Andrew Bosmans - SASIG Vice-Chairman	(Doncaster MBC)
	Cllr Jackie Cheetham - SASIG Vice-Chairman	(Uttlesford DC)
	Cllr Mike Goodman	(Surrey CC)
	Steve Bailes	(Uttlesford DC)
	Rob Gibson	(LB Hounslow)
	Wendy Rousell	(Luton BC)
	Anna Mahoney	SASIG Director
	Mark Mason	SASIG Information Officer

ITEM 1: Apologies for absence

- 1 Apologies for absence were received from: Cllr Nigel Shaw (Broadland DC)

**ITEM 2: Minutes of previous meetings and matters arising
(CAG Meeting 7 February 2014; SASIG Meeting 6 March 2014)**

Decision

- 2 Minutes from the previous meetings were **agreed**.

ITEM 3: SASIG account - 2014/15 account to date & proposed 2015/16 budget.

- 3 The 2014/15 year-end out-turn & proposed 2015/16 budget were discussed.
- 4 Potential future working models for SASIG were discussed. These included different scenarios for the SASIG office team, along with how these would be funded. There was a discussion about how these different scenarios might be implemented and how they might function in practice.

Decision

- 5 CAG **noted** the report.

Action

- 6 SASIG office team to draft an amended 2014/15 budget incorporating key assumptions, for SASIG, 24 October 2014.
- 7 SASIG office team to look into Surrey County Council procurement policy for hiring consultants.
- 8 SASIG office team to consider using SASIG balance to hire consultant to respond to Aiports Commission Discussion paper 8 (due to be released in October).



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- 9 CAG membership to network with representatives of local authorities, and other influential figures, to secure new member Authorities.
- 10 SASIG office team to continue conversations with local authorities to secure their membership for 2015/16.

ITEM 4: National aviation policy - for oral discussion.

- 11 Current national aviation policy issues were discussed, including the decision by the Airports Commission not to short-list a new airport in the Inner Thames estuary and the recent airspace trials occurring at different airports around the country.

Decision

- 12 CAG **noted** the report.

Actions

- 13 SASIG office team to write an Aviation Policy Paper for the next SASIG meeting.
- 14 SASIG office team to confirm with NATS and the CAA whether they will be attending the SASIG meeting on 24 October 2014, to speak about airspace issues.

ITEM 5: SASIG response to Airports Commission Discussion Paper 7: 'Delivery of new runway capacity' (submitted 21 August 2014).

- 15 The SASIG response to Airports Commission Discussion Paper 7: 'Delivery of new runway capacity' was discussed.

Decision

- 16 CAG **noted** the report.

ITEM 6: Any other business

- 17 No other business was raised.

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ITEM 7: Dates for future meetings

CAG meetings	SASIG meetings
<p data-bbox="533 501 584 521">~~~</p> <p data-bbox="384 551 734 580">Friday 26 September 2014</p> <p data-bbox="347 600 770 663">Friday 13 February 2015 – to be moved to Friday 6 February</p>	<p data-bbox="935 501 1203 530">Friday 27 June 2014</p> <p data-bbox="914 551 1224 580">Friday 24 October 2014</p> <p data-bbox="876 600 1262 663">Friday 13 March 2015 – to be moved to Friday 6 March</p>