

Note of last Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group meeting

Title:	Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group
Date:	Friday 6 November 2015
Venue:	Millbank Room, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Chair's welcome, non-attendees and apologies from the floor The Chair opened the meeting by introducing the officers and welcoming members. Apologies received were noted, see attendance and apologies list attached as Appendix A.	
2	Minutes of Previous Meetings and matters arising Decision: That the minutes of the last meeting on 31 July 2015 were agreed as a correct record. Decision: That the minutes and actions of the Chairman's Advisory Group meeting held on 30 September 2015 were noted. Action: The amendments to the SASIG constitution and policy principles, agreed at the meeting of 31 July 2015 have been incorporated and the amended version is now on the SASIG website.	
3	Update regarding appointment of Northpoint Aviation The Chair updated the Group about the appointment of Northpoint Aviation as Secretariat to SASIG. The contract negotiations are on-going and SASIG are currently operating under temporary arrangements until a formal contract is in place. Broadland DC and Dudley DC have offered to assist in concluding the arrangements. The Chair also updated members on the current SASIG balance in the Surrey CC account and referred to a list of outstanding subscriptions for 2015/16. A list of outstanding subscriptions was circulated after the meeting. Decision: Members noted the latest position regarding the administrative arrangements put in place following the appointment of Northpoint.	

4 SASIG draft response to Davies Report, update regarding meeting request with Aviation Minister

The Chair introduced the draft response to the Group which set out the remit for the Group's submission to the Airports Commission's Final Report. Chris Cain, Head of Secretariat, outlined to members the two legislative options for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure are: a Hybrid Bill or Development Consent Order.

Following the presentation of the draft response, members made a number of key points which they felt needed to be reflected/incorporated into the final document:

- The importance of connectivity, particularly to other parts of the UK, as an issue in the debate.
- It was felt that the benefits of additional capacity should be felt across the entire UK and provision needed to be made to ensure this occurs.
- The importance of night noise and air quality, particularly air quality, because of the obligations of local authorities re achieving compliance.
- Members were supportive of an Independent Aviation Noise Authority.
- The impact on sub regions in terms of demands placed on housing, schools and other services.
- Deliverability is important – there should be a clear delivery strategy covering the whole timetable for the project, with any Government spending required ring-fenced and contractually committed so a new Government could not renege on it.
- Members felt there should be a stronger focus on environmental impacts and mitigation in the response.
- Members also highlighted climate change targets as an issue in the absence of evidence that carbon trading is effective and therefore able to keeping emissions within agreed limits.
- Surface transport links to service and new capacity must be fully considered and properly planned; with the release of new capacity potentially made conditional on agreed surface access improvements being in place
- The prescriptive timetable associated with Development Consent Orders may not allow a full exploration of these and many other issues. This raised question-marks about whether it was the right way forward
- The possible impact on the M25 from the construction concurrently of a third runway at Heathrow and HS2 was a significant concern.

Decision: The Group noted the contents of Appendices A, B and C to the report.

Decision: The Group agreed to maintain its neutral position on the options outlined in the Davies Report and to continue to advocate for a proper balance to be struck between securing economic benefits and addressing environmental impacts.

Action: The Group agreed the scope of the response. The final document

to be amended where required in accordance with the comments made by members and to then be forwarded to the Chair and CAG members for sign-off. It was agreed that the SASIG response should be sent to the Cabinet Office, Sub-Committee, the Secretary of State for Transport, Ministers and key Government departments. (Final document to be made available for members on the website).

5 Other significant policy developments since July meeting - verbal report

Chris Cain, Head of Secretariat, provided a verbal update to the group on policy developments since the last meeting.

The EU Roadmap for Aviation Capacity was published in October and is a significant development as it will define European level structure for aviation and could lead to regulation.

The EU has £21bn of funding available for infrastructure projects and is calling for bids. Securing funding for aviation can be difficult however, the European Investment Bank recently granted a loan for improvements to a European airport.

The Group noted the update.

6 SASIG work plan update

The Chair introduced the updated work plan and sought feedback from members on categorisation and suggested amendments.

Members felt noise and environmental issues should be two top priorities. Members also felt the Group should be proactive in its work. Members suggested engaging with the Transport Select Committee Chair, the APPG on aviation, senior government officials and Members of Parliament with airports within their constituencies.

Decision: Members noted the categorisation and approved the revised work plan subject to member's amendments.

Action: Secretariat to update the work plan as per members comments.

7 SASIG Research Priorities

Chris Cain, Head of Secretariat, introduced the potential policy areas which the group could commission research or develop policy papers on and invited members to indicate how they would like to see these prioritised and/or identify others that should be added.

Decision: The Group noted the long list of policy areas and agreed priorities would be finalised in due course when Members had expressed their views – responses to be sent to the Secretariat.

Action: Secretariat to report back to the next meeting on the feedback

and funding available for research and policy development.

8 Raising SASIG's profile as a key aviation sector stakeholder

Chris Cain, Strategy and Policy Director, introduced the paper which sets out how to raise the Group's profile as a stakeholder and credible voice representing local communities in the on-going aviation policy debate. The long-term aim is to establish the Group as a clear stakeholder on aviation. This will be achieved through engagement with key stakeholders in parliament, Whitehall and the media.

Decision: The Group approved the direction of travel in the paper.

Action: The Chair and Advisory Group to progress the initiatives outlined and the Secretariat to further develop a long-term re-profiling and re-positioning strategy for the Group, to be reported back at the next meeting for approval.

9 SASIG Bulletins and Newsletters

Noted: The Group noted the circulated list which comprehensively detailed the sources of newsfeed which the Secretariat are using to make sure all relevant news is covered.

10 Any other Business

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chair	Cllr Jamie Macrae	Cheshire East Council
Vice-Chair	Cllr Mike Goodman	Surrey County Council
Vice-Chair	Cllr Nigel Shaw	Broadland District Council
Members	Cllr Keith Artus	Uttlesford District Council
	Steve Bailes	Uttlesford District Council
	Cllr Hilary Bills	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
	Jackie Cheetham	(Honorary President)
	John Coates	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
	Mr Paul Donovan	Hertfordshire County Council
	Cllr Jonathan Essex	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Ian Reay	Dacorum Borough Council
	Wendy Rousell	Luton Borough Council
	Mr Steve Shannon	
	Cllr David Sleight	Wokingham Borough Council
	Zhanine Smith	Essex County Council

	Surinderpal Suri John Walchester	London Borough of Hounslow Broadland District Council
Northpoint Aviation	Chris Cain Rebecca Crawford Sophie Funnell	
Apologies	Cllr Joe Blackham Mr Peter Geraghty Cllr Andrew Gibson Cllr Gary Jones Sallie Lappage Paul Mathieson Kay Mead Jason Newman Cllr Helen Smith	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council Southend-on-Sea Borough Council Hampshire County Council East Herts Council Crawley Borough Council Southend Borough Council East Hertfordshire District Council Slough Borough Council Thanet District Council
In Attendance		
LGA Officers	Ciarán Whitehead	



STRATEGIC AVIATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP
of the Local Government Association

NOTES OF THE CHAIRMAN'S ADVISORY GROUP (CAG) MEETING

THURSDAY 04 FEBRUARY 2016

Attendees:

Cllr Jamie Macrae - SASIG Chair	(Cheshire East Council)
Cllr Nigel Shaw – SASIG Vice Chair	(Broadland DC)
Cllr Keith Artus	(Uttlesford DC)
Lesley Harding - for Mike Goodman	(Surrey CC)
Jeremy Pine	(Uttlesford DC)
Zhanine Smith	(Essex CC)
Chris Cain	Northpoint Aviation
Sophie Funnell	Northpoint Aviation
Isobel Pastor (from 12.30pm)	Department for Transport

Apologies:

Wendy Rousell	(Luton Borough Council)
Cllr Mike Goodman – SASIG Vice Chair	(Surrey CC)
Cllr Hillary Bills	(Dudley Metropolitan BC)
Cllr Jackie Cheetham	(Uttlesford DC)

ITEM 1: Review & Actions – minutes of the last CAG/SASIG meetings and matters arising

- Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed, and will be presented to the Full SASIG meeting for approval 04 March.

ITEM 2: SASIG Administration and Finances

- **Membership subscriptions** - Surrey CC provided an update of subscriptions received for 2015/16. Outstanding member subscriptions would be followed up for payment by the end March 2016.
Action: SASIG secretariat to progress. Surrey CC agreed to re-invoice Cornwall CC (new contact details to be provided).
- The current invoice information database requires updating with new contact details, finance officer and member details for each authority. Surrey CC to provide Secretariat with current database, Secretariat to circulate to members following the forthcoming SASIG meeting to confirm current contacts.
- **Northpoint contract:** Future financial transactions would be through the new host Authority, Dudley DC: Surrey CC to arrange handover to new authority.

Action: to arrange meetings/telecon to discuss arrangements. Surrey CC to keep open an account until the end of the financial year as subscriptions outstanding. Contract details with NAS back to back via framework agreement.

- **Mailing List – Action:** The current SASIG mailing list database includes many former member representatives, officers and contacts. This needs to be reviewed and edited (some authorities have up to 10 mailings). Agreed Secretariat to circulate separately requesting review from member authorities.
- **Appendix A – Recruitment Drive:** Members felt that the document was not succinct enough and not easily digestible, and required more emphasis on key SASIG membership benefits (such as networking, dialog with technical officers groups, accessing contacts, shared resources and expertise in responding to an authority consultation, being part of a team) – critically these are the benefits that help member authorities to save time and extensive resource expenditure in addressing Aviation matters locally and nationally, and in responding to consultations.

C Cain emphasised that the importance of surface access issues (e.g. airports that are already, or have the potential to become surface transport hubs -such as Stansted), may be crucial to influence authorities and attract them as potential SASIG members, as the regional economic growth agenda continues to be a focus.

It was agreed that a covering letter, a 1-page summary and additional slides in the presentation should be included to address the forgoing points.

- **Recommendation:** That an 1- page summary and amended paper be presented to SASIG for discussion and Approval and that **Member Authority Contacts** from each region (for the recruitment drive) needed to be agreed at the March meeting, following which a target list of authorities could then be further discussed and agreed. The Secretariat would also seek contacts by reviewing those Local Authorities who responded to the Airports Commission policy papers.

It was also agreed to canvass for volunteer members to act as SASIG’s ambassadors, in core areas (e.g. those influenced by hub airports) e.g. in North West England, The Midlands, North East, South East etc.

CAG agreed that SASIG should aim for up to 5-10 new Authority Members in the coming Year, to assess the success of the approach proposed.

ITEM 3: Raising SASIG’s Profile (Appendix B)

- **PR Strategy** - CAG members endorsed the paper and recommended it should be presented to SASIG for discussion and approval.
- **External perceptions of SASIG** – Although SASIG is recognised for its technical and expansive knowledge of key issues in a sustainable approach to growth and environmental/economic impacts of airport expansion, there has been some feedback that industry/governmental view SASIG as “anti-aviation”?

- **How to change perceptions:** SASIG should aim to position itself as a key sounding board for emerging aviation policy within government, and in so doing take on a much more proactive role than at present. SASIG needs to get 'Whitehall' policy makers attention by offering balanced but well informed contributions – this requires evidence-based analysis and insight in areas where LAs have a real expertise or constituent/community interest, rather than engaging in theoretical or methodological debates with officials, which they will ultimately pay little heed to. Key areas include: surface access, planning, economic and city development, airspace and noise policy, other forms of environmental mitigation and community liaison.
- **Media and political briefing:** This requires short, focussed, simple and quotable contributions tailored and targeted to make a political impact.

ISOBEL PASTOR (Aviation Policy Department DfT) Presentation to CAG on AIRSPACE AND NOISE REVIEW:

Following a recent meeting of the DfT Aviation Capacity External Advisory Group (attended by the SASIG Secretariat), the DfT wished to engage with SASIG regarding their forthcoming review: Outlines of the review topics were discussed:

- **Performance Based Navigation (PBN)** - Trials of PBN. Community based problems arising from it and possible further consultation steps arising from this were discussed.
- **DfT Meeting** – The importance of local authority/ local government engagement was emphasised, Isobel Pastor requested that two representatives from SASIG attend each meeting workshop on the topics of the Airspace and Noise document as outlined in the presentation. It was agreed that CAG members would recommend to SASIG that we would attend. Notification of the three half-day sessions would be made (date to be agreed in March).
- **Designation of Airports** - DfT expressed interest in SASIG's views on designation and whether it should be looked at again during the review.
- **PNRs** - Problems with PNRs discussed briefly, to be a subject of the review sessions
- **Metrics** – DfT agreed that research needs to be carried out into how metrics link to health impacts, and questions raised on how airports and the CAA can bring frequency in as a meaningful assessment.
- **Community Engagement** –DfT were questioned on how best to engage with communities who have not previously been affected by aircraft and noise, and who are not members of groups such as SASIG. Suggestion that this could be done by engaging with town and parish councils and other recognised groups.

Action : Secretariat to forward current SASIG member authority list to Isobel Pastor to demonstrate that SASIG has a good national representation geographically. SASIG to formally invite Isobel Pastor to present at the 04 March meeting to outline the review to members. (NOTE the outline documents are currently not for wider circulation. E-mail version to be sent to SASIG)

ITEM 4: Influencing Government Policy:

- The scheduled Meeting with Robert Goodwill was postponed. (*Post meeting note:* The Minister has requested SASIG representatives meet with him on Monday 14th March). Members will be updated on the forthcoming discussions.

ITEM 5: EU Aviation Strategy:

- This will be discussed at the SASIG meeting 04 March.

ITEM 6: SASIG Research Programme:

- Agreement that airspace and noise is the top priority area, followed by surface access and economic development and planning issues. A report on conclusions and a planned research programme to be presented at the March meeting for consideration.

ITEM 7: Confirm Agenda for Full Meeting:

- Re-ordered meeting agenda to be re-circulated to CAG for comment following feedback and request that the presentation by the DfT be scheduled to follow other business.

ITEM 8: Forthcoming Meeting Dates/Times

- **Next SASIG Meeting** – Next meeting after 4th March was agreed to be Friday 8th July, to be confirmed at the 04 March meeting.
- **Forthcoming Meetings** - Agreed that technical and environmental officer meetings to be scheduled: to include key issues on environment impact and noise, surface access and economic development.
- Proposal that the Officer Group meetings could be moved to a lunchtime/middle of the day time, to make it easier for officers further away from London to attend, and cut travel costs.

ITEM 9: AOB

- The DfT EAG meeting papers are a very large file to circulate so have been put on the SASIG website under 'Latest News'.

Meeting Closed