



### **Item 7: Proposed Research Programme**

1. In November/December 2015, the Secretariat circulated a brief survey to all members comprising five questions. The survey asked for views about priorities for possible research/policy papers to be commissioned by SASIG. Eight potential research topics were highlighted and reminders were circulated twice.
2. The results were presented to CAG in February alongside the Secretariat's recommendations for a prioritised programme of work, which also factored in potential topicality, value for influencing and partnering opportunities. The latter are significant as sharing costs would help extend the range of topics that could be covered and joint commissioning may increase prominence and credibility with target audiences.
3. Clear priorities from the feedback from SASIG members were:
  - a. A proactive approach to managing noise and other significant environmental impacts.
  - b. Strategies for maximising wider economic benefits from airports.
  - c. Airports and the city growth agenda
4. Partnering opportunities potentially exist for (b) and (c), but less obviously for (a). Subject to funds being available within the budget, commissioning of research into these subjects seems appropriate.
5. **Recommendation: with this in mind it is recommended that:**
  - Funds to be provisionally allocated (subject to budget discussion) against each research heading, with any further additional monies that may be accrued being prioritised for topic (a);
  - the Secretariat be tasked with preparing study briefs for consideration by relevant Working Groups and CAG and seeking potential commissioning partners where possible; and
  - the Chair (in consultation with CAG) be delegated to commission the relevant work from the Secretariat, or where appropriate external consultants, once the briefs have been agreed and suitable proposals procured for the resources available.
  - the commissioning and progress of such work be reported to the next meeting of SASIG members and a requirement for a presentation or paper on the finding of each study be brought before CAG or the relevant Working Group, before the report is finalised, published and circulated to Members.