

SASIG AVIATION BULLETIN

Aviation News & Policy

June 2026



SASIG's monthly Aviation Bulletin provides LGA members, affiliates and associate members with focused insights into the parliamentary, policy and industry developments shaping the future direction of the aviation sector in the UK.

Editorial

June 2026 was a seminal month for UK aviation policy. **The Government published its draft Heathrow Expansion National Policy Statement (HENPS) on 18 June, formally launching a ten-week public consultation and marking the biggest single step yet towards a third runway.** Its arrival coincided with a High Court judgment clearing Gatwick's own runway scheme, so that within the space of a week the two London hubs both crossed major legal and policy thresholds.

Heathrow

Heathrow remained the dominant UK policy issue. The draft HENPS renames and replaces the 2018 Airports National Policy Statement so that it applies specifically to the Northwest Runway scheme and proposes designating expansion as "Critical National Growth Infrastructure". It sets out four tests — economic growth, carbon, air quality and noise — against which any future Development Consent Order application must be judged, and was formally laid before Parliament on 22 June, opening a period of Select Committee scrutiny running to 26 November 2026. **The consultation closes on 1 September 2026, and the Transport Committee has already launched its own inquiry and is calling for written evidence.** The Government's ambition remains a final planning decision within this Parliament.

Gatwick

Gatwick's second runway also reached a legal watershed. On 23 June the High Court dismissed two judicial review challenges brought against the £2.2 billion Northern Runway Project, with the judge finding the Transport Secretary's approval lawful and rational. Campaigners have a short window to seek permission to appeal, but subject to that the scheme — which would bring Gatwick's standby runway into routine dual-runway use by 2030 — can now move toward delivery. **Separately, Gatwick's attempt to challenge the Government's emergency relaxation of slot-usage rules, introduced in response to the Strait of Hormuz fuel disruption, was refused an emergency injunction as the new Regulations took effect on 19 June.**

Regulation and fuel

The CAA's CAP3251 consultation on Heathrow regulatory models closed as scheduled on 15 June, with a high-level update expected from the regulator in July and a fuller policy document in the autumn. In the Lords, the **Civil Aviation (Consumer Protection and Regulatory Reform) Bill** completed its Committee Stage on 18 June, following two days of scrutiny in Grand Committee; the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee maintained its concern, first flagged in May, that the Bill would hand ministers "unconstrained power" over which safety and operational rules are delegated to the CAA. **On decarbonisation, the Department for Transport announced a new £219 million Low Carbon Fuels Fund on 16 June, alongside a call for evidence on future SAF supply,** reflecting industry concern about the pace of non-HEFA fuel production ahead of the 2027 HEFA cap. The first phase of the **Aviation Night Noise Effects (ANNE)** study was also published on 10 June, alongside the CAA's **Aviation Noise Attitudes Study**; both will feed into the post-2028 night flight regime.

Action for Members!

Member authorities are strongly encouraged to review and respond to the draft HENPS consultation, which closes on 1 September 2026. It will shape the planning framework for any Heathrow expansion application and directly addresses surface access, noise, air quality and community mitigation. Authorities with an interest may also wish to submit written evidence to the **Transport Committee's parallel inquiry, deadline 23rd July 2026, and should note the CAA's expected July update on Heathrow economic regulation following the CAP3251 consultation.**

Chris Cain

Policy Director, SASIG

Monthly Highlights

Key stories from this month at a glance:

- **10 June 2026** — [Aviation Night Noise Effects \(ANNE\) study published](#) — first phase of the DfT-commissioned study on sleep disturbance around eight UK airports, alongside the CAA's Aviation Noise Attitudes Study (CAP3131).
- **15 June 2026** — [CAA CAP3251 consultation on Heathrow regulatory models closes](#) — shortlist of four options for regulating Heathrow expansion; high-level CAA update expected July 2026.
- **16 June 2026** — [£219m Low Carbon Fuels Fund announced](#) — DfT launches new SAF production fund plus a call for evidence on future non-HEFA fuel supply.
- **18 June 2026** — [Consultation launched on draft Heathrow Expansion National Policy Statement](#) — ten-week consultation on the renamed HENPS, closing 1 September 2026.
- **23 June 2026** — [Gatwick Northern Runway cleared by High Court](#) — two judicial review challenges to the £2.2bn scheme dismissed; campaigners considering appeal.
- **24 June 2026** — [Transport Committee launches HENPS inquiry](#) — select committee scrutiny of the draft Heathrow Expansion National Policy Statement formally opens, with a call for written evidence.

Potential Actions for Local Authorities

Items for member consideration this month:

- Respond to the [draft Heathrow Expansion National Policy Statement consultation](#) (closing 1 September 2026) — relevant to any authority within, or adjoining, the Heathrow expansion impact area.
- Consider submitting written evidence to the [Transport Committee's inquiry into the draft HENPS](#).
- Note the outcome of CAP3251 (Heathrow regulatory models) expected from the CAA in July 2026, and the further policy document expected in autumn 2026, finance is likely to be a key factor in whether R3 is actually ever built.
- Monitor progress of the Civil Aviation (Consumer Protection and Regulatory Reform) Bill as it moves to Report Stage in the Lords, particularly the Government's response to the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee's concerns.
- Consider responses to the DfT's [call for evidence on future SAF supply](#) (closing 28 July 2026), relevant to authorities with SAF production or Advanced Fuels Fund interests in their area.

SASIG Activities This Month

- SASIG Members' Meeting held online on 17 June 2026, with discussion focused on the draft HENPS consultation, the closure of CAP3251 and progress of the Civil Aviation Bill through the Lords.
- Policy Director continued to liaise with DfT officials on the absence of a dedicated air freight policy, an issue raised in previous months.
- Members were briefed on the CAA's Annual Progress Report for 2025, debated in the Commons on 2 June, and its implications for economic regulation priorities.
- SASIG continues to monitor the forthcoming Obstacle Limitation Surfaces framework workshop, scheduled for July 2026.
- Next SASIG Members' Meeting: Tuesday 6 October 2026 (Online).

Events, Meetings & Consultations

SASIG Meetings

Note: SASIG meetings continue to be held predominantly online. Please confirm arrangements with the Secretariat before making travel plans.

SASIG Members' Meeting: Wednesday 17th June 2026 (Online) — held

SASIG Members' Meeting: Tuesday 6th October 2026 (Online) — upcoming

Consultations

- **Closed 15 June 2026:** [CAA CAP3251 — Heathrow capacity expansion: shortlist of regulatory models](#) — high-level CAA update expected July 2026, further document in autumn.
- **Closing 28 July 2026:** [DfT — SAF Mandate: SAF supply and industry certainty in an evolving market](#) — call for evidence on non-HEFA SAF supply, the HEFA cap and fuel tankering.
- **Closing 1 September 2026:** [DfT — Draft Heathrow Expansion National Policy Statement \(HENPS\)](#) — the renamed and revised ANPS, covering the Northwest Runway scheme, surface access, and the four tests of growth, carbon, air quality and noise.
- **Forthcoming — CAA summer 2026:** Revised CAP 1616 Airspace Change Process Guidance — CAA updating the airspace change process to accommodate the new UKADS model.

External Conferences & Events

22–24 June 2026: [ACI EUROPE Annual Congress & General Assembly](#), Prague, Czech Republic

20–24 July 2026: [Farnborough International Airshow 2026](#), Farnborough, Hampshire

Parliamentary & Government News

Transport Questions: House of Commons

The House rose on the 21 May 2026 for the Whitsun Recess and returned 1 June 2026

2 June 2026 — [CAA Annual Progress Report for 2025 \(Commons debate\)](#) MPs debated the CAA's annual performance, covering economic regulation, consumer protection and airspace modernisation priorities.

2 June 2026 — [Setting the Seventh Carbon Budget \(Commons debate\)](#) Wide-ranging debate touching on aviation's contribution to the seventh carbon budget and the interaction with the SAF Mandate.

10 June 2026 — Local Government Reform debated in the Commons — while not aviation-specific, the debate touched on devolution and strategic planning powers relevant to local authorities' engagement with major infrastructure consultations such as the draft HENPS.

22 June 2026 — [Draft Heathrow Expansion National Policy Statement: Relevant Period \(Commons statement\)](#) Transport Secretary confirmed the draft HENPS had been laid before Parliament, opening the statutory scrutiny period to 26 November 2026.

23 June 2026 — [Border Security: UK–Ireland Co-operation \(Commons debate\)](#) Debate touched on the Common Travel Area and airport border arrangements amid EU Entry/Exit System concerns.

Transport Questions: House of Lords

The House rose on the 21 May 2026 for the Whitsun Recess and returned 1 June 2026

2 June 2026 — [Civil Aviation \(Consumer Protection and Regulatory Reform\) Bill \[HL\] — Second Reading](#) Wide-ranging debate on the Bill's principles, with peers broadly supportive of consumer protection and CAA rule-making reforms, while flagging accessibility and delegated powers concerns.

10 June 2026 — [Airports Slot Allocation \(Alleviation of Usage Requirements\) Regulations 2026 \(Lords Grand Committee debate\)](#) Peers considered the temporary reduction of the slot 'use it or lose it' threshold from 80% to 70%, introduced in response to the Strait of Hormuz fuel disruption; the Regulations were subsequently approved and took effect 19 June.

15–18 June 2026 — [Civil Aviation \(Consumer Protection and Regulatory Reform\) Bill \[HL\] — Committee Stage](#) Line-by-line scrutiny of the Bill in Grand Committee concluded over two days on 18 June; peers pressed the Government on delegated powers safeguards ahead of Report Stage.

Parliamentary Questions

Q. Common Travel Area / Shannon Airport (Lord Moylan; Lords Q.HL500, **1 June**):

When a British diplomatic or consular representative in Ireland last visited Shannon Airport, and whether any report was made on arrangements for implementing the Common Travel Area for passengers arriving directly from the UK.

Baroness Chapman of Darlington (answered 11 June): The UK and Ireland remain committed to protecting the integrity of the Common Travel Area, as reaffirmed at the 2026 UK-Ireland Summit. UK officials continue to work closely with their Irish counterparts on border security and migration matters.

Q. Heathrow ANSP / stakeholder engagement (Chris Hinchliff MP (North East Hertfordshire); Commons Q.5504, **1 June**):

Whether the Department has held discussions with Heathrow Airport, the Arora Group and civil society groups on the Heathrow Airports National Policy Statement.

Keir Mather MP (answered 10 June): The Department engages with a broad range of stakeholders, including scheme promoters, local authorities, transport bodies, community groups and environmental stakeholders, in line with the published Statement of Approach. Further engagement was expected once the ANPS review concluded and the consultation opened this summer.

Q. Airport drop-off charges (Zoe Franklin MP, Alison Taylor MP, Gregory Stafford MP, Alice MacDonald MP (several related questions); Commons Q.5844 / 5571 / 6085 / 6086 / 9188, **1–11 June**):

A cluster of questions asked whether the Department had assessed the reasonableness of airport drop-off charges, and whether it would seek regulation or CMA involvement.

Keir Mather MP (answered 10–17 June): The Department has not undertaken a formal assessment of drop-off charges, which remain a commercial matter for individual airports; it does not intend to involve the CMA. The Department expects charges to be managed fairly and transparently, and notes that many airports offer free drop-off alternatives.

Q. SAF funding — Advanced Fuels Fund allocations to date (Richard Holden MP (Basildon & Billericay); Commons Q.6132, **2 June**):

How much funding the Department has allocated to the supply of SAF through the Advanced Fuels Fund since 4 July 2024.

Keir Mather MP (answered 8 June): Since 4 July 2024, the Department has allocated £63m to 17 UK SAF projects through the Advanced Fuels Fund.

Q. ANPS publication timetable (Munira Wilson MP (Twickenham); Sarah Olney MP (Richmond Park); Commons Q.6010 / 6463, **2–3 June**):

When the Government would publish the draft Airports National Policy Statement for consultation, and whether this would occur before the summer recess.

Keir Mather MP (answered 8–15 June): The Government confirmed it was working to consult on the ANPS review outcome by the summer, as subsequently delivered on 18 June with the draft HENPS.

Q. Unmanned Air Systems — noise policy examination (*Joe Robertson MP (Isle of Wight East); Commons Q.6160, 2 June*):

What timetable has been set for the CAA's examination of the implications of emerging aviation technologies, including drone delivery, on aviation noise policy, and whether findings will be published.

Keir Mather MP (answered 15 June): The Department is working with the CAA to publish a report later in 2026 on managing noise from emerging aviation technologies, including drone delivery operations. Findings will be published on the CAA's website.

Q. Green Aviation Projects funding breakdown (*Richard Holden MP (Basildon & Billericay); Commons Q.6205, 2 June*):

For a full breakdown, by project, of the up to £43 million allocated to green aviation projects.

Keir Mather MP (answered 15 June): Of the £43m announced in January 2026 for net zero aviation R&D over four years, up to £8m is allocated to the Zero Emission Flight Demonstrator Round One (competition closed 1 April, winners to be announced shortly) and up to £2.5m to the CAA's Hydrogen Challenge in the current financial year; further project-level allocations will be announced in due course.

Q. Public Service Obligation routes — designation criteria (*Richard Holden MP (Basildon & Billericay); Commons Q.6200, 2 June*):

What the Department's policy is on targeting Public Service Obligations for domestic air routes, and the criteria used to determine whether a route qualifies for PSO funding.

Keir Mather MP (answered 15 June): PSO support requires a clear public interest case and no viable commercial alternative, assessed against statutory criteria and value for money, typically involving local authorities, airport operators and the Department. The Government currently jointly funds PSO routes into London from Dundee and Derry.

Q. SAF production capacity and consumer costs (*Dr Scott Arthur MP (Edinburgh South West); Commons Q.7031 / 7033, 4 June*):

What estimate has been made of domestic SAF production capacity relative to Mandate targets, and the likely pass-through of compliance costs to air fares.

Keir Mather MP (answered 15 June): An assessment of domestic production was conducted as part of the SAF Mandate cost-benefit analysis. The Mandate includes a five-yearly review process, and over £198m has been allocated through the Advanced Fuels Fund between 2022 and 2026, with support extended to 2029/30 through the Spending Review 2025.

Q. UK–EU transport collaboration (*Joe Robertson MP (Isle of Wight East); Commons Q.7814, 8 June*):

What specific transport policy areas form the wide range of collaboration currently being discussed with the EU and its member states.

Keir Mather MP (answered 15 June): Collaboration spans aviation, maritime, road transport and vehicle type approval under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, alongside the UK–EU Common Understanding and bilateral agreements, covering transport decarbonisation, sustainable aviation fuels, and the EU Entry/Exit System among other matters.

Q. England–Northern Ireland connectivity (*Andrew Rosindell MP (Romford); Commons Q.7999, 9 June*):

What steps have been taken with Northern Ireland counterparts to improve connectivity between England and Northern Ireland.

Simon Lightwood MP (answered 17 June): The Government works closely with Northern Ireland Executive ministers through forums such as the Interministerial Group for Transport, and continues to support connectivity through the Public Service Obligation route between City of Derry Airport and London Heathrow.

Q. Low Carbon Fuels Fund allocation (*Greg Smith MP (Mid-Buckinghamshire); Commons Q.9696, 15 June*):

What the planned expenditure is on the new fund to support UK SAF production in 2026–27 through 2028–29, broken down by project.

Keir Mather MP (answered 22 June): The Advanced Fuels Fund ended 31 March 2026. The new Low Carbon Fuels Fund, announced 16 June, will provide up to £219m between 2026/27 and 2029/30, allocated through competitive bidding opening in summer 2026; £93m is available over the first two years.

Q. Aircraft noise research publication (*Sian Berry MP (Brighton Pavilion); Commons Q.9806, 15 June*):

Whether the Government will publish the findings of the Aviation Noise Attitudes Survey and the related night noise study before the draft ANPS is published.

Keir Mather MP (answered 23 June): The Government published the Aviation Night Noise Effects (ANNE) report on 10 June 2026, alongside the CAA's Aviation Noise Attitudes Study (CAP3131, published the same day on the CAA's website).

Q. Drones — Beyond Visual Line of Sight operations (*Ben Obese-Jecty MP (Huntingdon); Commons Q.10351, 16 June*):

What steps have been taken to update the Air Navigation Order 2016 to integrate Beyond Visual Line of Sight drone operations with other airspace users.

Keir Mather MP (answered 24 June): Through the Future of Flight Programme, the Department is working with the CAA, industry and government partners to establish the framework needed to support routine BVLOS drone operations by 2027, and will consider further legislative changes where necessary.

Government Announcements & Publications

10 June 2026 — [Aviation Night Noise Effects \(ANNE\) study — phase one \(GOV.UK\)](#) — survey of 4,000 residents around eight UK airports on sleep disturbance and annoyance from night flights.

16 June 2026 — [£219 million to power Britain's green aviation revolution \(DfT\)](#) — launch of the Low Carbon Fuels Fund and SAF supply call for evidence.

18 June 2026 — [New consultation sets foundations for Heathrow expansion to take off \(GOV.UK\)](#) — launch of the draft HENPS consultation, alongside a surface access vision document and updated Appraisal of Sustainability.

19 June 2026 — [Airports Slot Allocation \(Alleviation of Usage Requirements\) Regulations 2026](#) take effect — temporarily reducing the slot use-it-or-lose-it threshold from 80% to 70% in response to Strait of Hormuz-linked fuel supply risk.

Transport Committee

24 June 2026 — [Transport Committee launches inquiry into draft Heathrow Expansion National Policy Statement](#) The Committee, chaired by Ruth Cadbury MP, is undertaking the statutory select committee scrutiny role for the draft HENPS and is calling for written evidence.

Environmental Audit Committee

June 2026 — The Environmental Audit Committee's ongoing inquiry into airport expansion and climate and nature targets remains a live reference point, with the Committee expected to scrutinise the draft HENPS's climate and air quality tests once the consultation period concludes.

Week of 29 June 2026 — [Climate Change Act 2008 \(International Aviation and International Shipping\) Regulations 2026 — Lords debate scheduled](#) The draft Regulations, which would bring international aviation and shipping emissions within the Climate Change Act's carbon budget framework, were scheduled for a Lords 'dinner break business' debate during that week, with a regret motion tabled by Lord Moynihan; a long-running question relevant to how the seventh carbon budget accounts for aviation's contribution.

Delegated Powers & Regulatory Reform Committee

8–11 June 2026 — [Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee — 1st Report](#) The Committee maintained its concern that provisions in the Civil Aviation Bill give ministers “unconstrained power” to determine which safety and operational rules are delegated to the CAA, and recommended the affirmative procedure for related regulations. These concerns were debated during Committee Stage, which concluded on 18 June.

UK Aviation Policy

Airport Expansion & Capacity

15 June 2026 — [CAA CAP3251 consultation on Heathrow regulatory models closes](#) — the shortlist of four regulatory options, from enhanced existing framework to an alternative developer model, now moves to CAA review, with a high-level update expected in July 2026.

18 June 2026 — [Consultation launched on draft Heathrow Expansion National Policy Statement](#) — ten-week public consultation to 1 September 2026; final designation targeted by end of 2026.

23 June 2026 — [UK High Court upholds Gatwick Airport Northern Runway expansion](#) — two judicial reviews dismissed; the scheme is expected to enable around 80 million passengers a year by the mid-2040s once dual-runway operations begin.

29 June 2026 — [Transport body challenges Heathrow-first approach to UK airport expansion \(Air Cargo Week\)](#) — an industry body argued that a Heathrow-first policy risks squeezing investment in regional airport capacity and freight infrastructure elsewhere in the UK, a point of direct relevance to non-Heathrow member authorities.

Airspace, ATM & Air Navigation

19 June 2026 — Airports Slot Allocation (Alleviation of Usage Requirements) Regulations 2026 come into force, reducing the slot use-it-or-lose-it threshold from 80% to 70% for the remainder of the alleviation window, linked to Strait of Hormuz fuel supply risk; Gatwick's request for an emergency injunction against the change was refused by the High Court.

Sustainability, SAF & Decarbonisation

10 June 2026 — [Aviation Night Noise Effects \(ANNE\) study — phase one published](#) — a large-scale survey of residents around eight UK airports assessing sleep disturbance and annoyance from night flights, published alongside the CAA's Aviation Noise Attitudes Study (CAP3131); a second ANNE phase examining sleep disturbance in more detail is expected later in 2026.

16 June 2026 — [£219 million Low Carbon Fuels Fund launched](#) — DfT will make £93 million available over the next two years for UK companies developing low-carbon fuel projects closest to production, building on £198 million already committed through the Advanced Fuels Fund since 2022.

16 June 2026 — [Call for evidence on future SAF supply launched alongside the Fund](#) — seeking industry views on the availability of non-HEFA sustainable fuels ahead of the 2027 HEFA cap; closes 28 July 2026.

24 June 2026 — [SAF benefits at risk of being 'diluted' by Heathrow expansion, government warned \(The Chemical Engineer\)](#) — industry commentators cautioned that rising fuel demand from a third runway could outpace domestic SAF production capacity unless investment accelerates.

25 June 2026 — [SAF book-and-claim could cover non-EU airports \(Aviation International News\)](#) — industry discussion of extending SAF book-and-claim accounting mechanisms to allow fuel purchased at one airport to be credited against emissions at another, including outside the EU.

Advanced Air Mobility, Drones & New Technology

12 June 2026 — [Vertical Aerospace's third eVTOL completes first piloted flight in Gloucestershire \(Aerospace Testing International\)](#) — milestone flight test for the UK-based electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft developer, ahead of anticipated commercial VTOL operations from 2028.

16 June 2026 — Parliamentary confirmation that the Future of Flight Programme is working, alongside the CAA, industry and government partners, toward a regulatory framework for Beyond Visual Line of Sight drone operations by 2027 (see Parliamentary Questions above).

30 June 2026 — [DroneShield report reveals gaps in airport and critical infrastructure counter-drone security \(Regional Gateway\)](#) — an industry report highlighted shortfalls in UK airport counter-drone detection capability, adding to the case for the CAA's forthcoming emerging-technology noise and safety review.

Land Use, Planning & Economic Impact

10 June 2026 — [Homes England and house builder target 10,000 homes on city airport site \(Inside Housing\)](#) — a major housing partnership was confirmed on land adjacent to a city airport, illustrating the growing tension between airport operations and surrounding development pressure.

18 June 2026 — The draft HENPS requires promoters to demonstrate how surface access demand will be accommodated, with a supporting surface access vision document published alongside the consultation — directly relevant to local planning authorities in the Heathrow catchment.

London Airports

Heathrow

2 June 2026 — [Heathrow expansion could open the door to five additional UK routes \(Aeronews Global\)](#) — analysis suggested that additional capacity from a third runway could support new domestic and regional connections once operational.

15 June 2026 — [Major change to Heathrow flight path takes effect \(Express\)](#) — an adjustment to arrival and departure routings came into force, part of ongoing airspace modernisation work ahead of the wider UKADS programme.

23 June 2026 — [Poll finds strong local support for Heathrow third runway expansion \(Aviation24.be\)](#) — survey results published in the same week as the HENPS consultation launch pointed to majority local support for expansion, subject to noise and environmental safeguards.

23 June 2026 — [Flying at Heathrow to cost 'significantly more' over third runway bid \(City A.M.\)](#) — analysis of how expansion financing costs could feed through to passenger charges and airline ticket prices.

26 June 2026 — [What Slot Problem? Heathrow Welcomes 5 New Airlines In 2026 \(Simple Flying\)](#) — despite the airport's well-documented slot constraints, five new carriers began operating at Heathrow during 2026, reflecting continued demand for access to the hub.

26 June 2026 — [Heathrow forecasts 1.1% fall in passenger numbers this year because of the Iran conflict \(The Independent\)](#) — the airport revised its 2026 outlook downward, citing reduced Middle East transit traffic; see also Land Use, Planning & Economic Impact, above.

30 June 2026 — [Heathrow offers therapy to neighbours affected by third runway plans \(The National\)](#) — see also Land Use, Planning & Economic Impact, above; the airport confirmed a community wellbeing support offer as part of its mitigation package.

Gatwick

6 June 2026 — [Gatwick Airport overnight train launched by Great Western Railway \(BBC News\)](#) — new overnight rail services introduced to improve surface access for passengers ahead of the summer getaway period.

11 June 2026 — [Gatwick picks 11 firms to drive £2bn airport upgrade \(Construction Enquirer\)](#) — contractors appointed to deliver terminal, taxiway and surface-access works supporting the Northern Runway Project.

26 June 2026 — [London Gatwick strengthens China connectivity with new Qingdao service from Beijing Capital Airlines](#) — the new route adds a fourth Chinese destination to Gatwick's network, reflecting growing long-haul demand at the airport.

London City Airport

- **30 June 2026** — [London City Airport to open luxury Aspire lounge in 2027 \(Regional Gateway\)](#) — the airport unveiled plans for a new premium lounge as part of its ongoing terminal investment programme. (See article under Land Use, Planning & Economic Impact).

London Stansted & Luton

11 June 2026 — [Strength of European network continues to drive record passenger numbers at London Stansted](#) — the airport reported continued growth on short-haul European routes, underpinning record throughput for the period.

13 June 2026 — [easyJet A320 took off from incorrect runway intersection at London Luton Airport \(Aviation24.be\)](#) — incident under review by investigators; the airline confirmed no injuries and normal operations continued.

29 June 2026 — [Stansted Community Fund backs local projects with nearly £31,000 of grants](#) — the airport's community fund distributed grants to local voluntary and community groups around the airport.

29 June 2026 — [Luton Airport recognised among Europe's best for second year running \(The Lutonian\)](#) — independent industry benchmarking again placed Luton among Europe's top-performing airports for passenger experience.

London Southend

11 June 2026 — [London Southend confirmed as the UK's fastest-growing airport](#) — the Essex airport recorded a 247% year-on-year rise in Q1 2026 passengers, with new routes to Jersey, Ibiza and Munich launching for summer 2026 and further services to Belfast City and Budapest due in October.

Midlands & East of England

2 June 2026 — [First flight kickstarts new daily link to Jersey from East Midlands Airport \(Loganair\)](#) — Loganair began operating a new daily scheduled service connecting East Midlands Airport with Jersey, expanding the carrier's regional network.

11 June 2026 — Coventry Airport permanently closed after 90 years of operation, following its formal notification to the CAA in November 2025; the [Baginton site is to be redeveloped as the GreenPower Park battery and clean energy scheme](#), a £2.5 billion investment.

19 June 2026 — [Security experience at East Midlands Airport rated best in UK and in Europe's top 20](#) — independent passenger satisfaction benchmarking placed the airport ahead of larger UK hubs for security wait times and service quality.

26 June 2026 — [Communities near East Midlands Airport receive funding for facilities and projects](#) — the airport's community fund awarded grants supporting local facilities and projects around its East Midlands catchment.

North of England

There are no new developments or updates to report in the North of England's aviation sector this month.

Scotland

1 June 2026 — [Edinburgh and Glasgow Airport flight disruption triggered by fuel tanker driver shortage \(The Scotsman\)](#) — a shortage of qualified fuel tanker drivers led to disruption and delays at both airports over the weekend.

2 June 2026 — [Prestwick expands China cargo links one year after Air China entry \(Glasgow Prestwick Airport\)](#) — Glasgow Prestwick marked twelve months of Air China freighter services with confirmation of expanded capacity on the route.

15 June 2026 — [Edinburgh Airport strike threat averted after pay deal for 400 staff \(The Scotsman\)](#) — a negotiated pay settlement avoided planned industrial action ahead of the peak summer travel period.

22 June 2026 — [Prestwick Airport passenger numbers up amid flights hopes \(The Herald\)](#) — the airport reported rising passenger volumes; separately, Matteoni was confirmed as successor to Forge as Prestwick Airport CEO.

25 June 2026 — [Edinburgh Airport named among UK's worst for summer delays \(The Herald\)](#) — industry punctuality data placed Edinburgh among the lower-ranked UK airports for summer 2026 delays, despite the earlier pay settlement.

Wales & South West England

12 June 2026 — ['UK's most expensive airport' — Bristol parking costs highlighted \(Express\)](#) — a consumer study found Bristol Airport's short-stay parking charges among the highest in the country, with some tariffs exceeding £100.

22 June 2026 — [Bournemouth Airport tops UK punctuality table during holiday getaway](#) — the airport recorded the best on-time performance of any UK airport during the peak summer getaway weekend.

23–24 June 2026 — [Exact date confirmed for first-ever easyJet flights from Newquay Airport \(The Sun\)](#) — the inaugural Gatwick–Newquay service launched on 23 June, operating twice weekly and strengthening direct connectivity between London and Cornwall.

26 June 2026 — [Skyborne expands pilot training at Gloucester Airport](#) — the flight training organisation announced expanded pilot training capacity at Gloucester, supporting UK aviation skills pipeline growth.

30 June 2026 — [Bristol Airport unveils concept images for MRO hangar that would create over 100 jobs \(International Airport Review\)](#) — the airport published designs for a new maintenance, repair and overhaul hangar expected to support more than 100 skilled jobs if approved.

Channel Islands & Crown Dependencies

8 June 2026 — [Loganair launches historic first direct flights from Jersey to Paris \(AVSN\)](#) — the new route marks the first direct Jersey–Paris service, improving connectivity between the Channel Islands and mainland Europe.

22 June 2026 — [Loganair launches first-ever direct flights between Jersey and Bordeaux \(Aviation24.be\)](#) — a further new route extends Loganair's Channel Islands network into south-west France.

Wider Industry News

Air Cargo & Freight

2 June 2026 — [First fully electric cargo aircraft lands at Ostend-Bruges airport, Belgium \(Aviation24.be\)](#) — a demonstration flight highlighted progress on electric freighter technology for short-haul cargo routes.

3 June 2026 — [Prestwick expands China cargo links one year after Air China entry \(Air Cargo News\)](#) — see also Scotland, above; the expanded freighter capacity strengthens Prestwick's role as a UK-China cargo gateway. (See article under National & Regional Aviation News – UK, under Scotland).

8 June 2026 — [Connecting the threads of air cargo \(Air Cargo Week\)](#) — industry feature examining supply chain integration challenges across UK and European air freight networks.

Aerospace Manufacturing & Innovation

12 June 2026 — [Vertical Aerospace's third eVTOL completes first piloted flight in Gloucestershire \(Aerospace Testing International\)](#) — see also Advanced Air Mobility, above.

16 June 2026 — [Air bp marks 100 years of aviation refuelling \(Business Airport International\)](#) — the fuel supplier marked a century of aviation refuelling operations, reflecting on the sector's transition toward sustainable fuels.

Technology, AI & Airport Operations

2 June 2026 — [ACI EUROPE cyber security warning \(International Airport Review\)](#) — the European airport trade body warned members of emerging AI-related cyber security threats targeting airport and supplier systems.

24 June 2026 — [Interview: Airport Dimensions on how traveller expectations are reshaping the airport journey \(Moodie Davitt Report\)](#) — discussion of evolving passenger expectations around digital services, personalisation and the pre-travel airport experience.

International Context

7 June 2026 — [Europe's new EES border checks may cause 6-hour airport queues this summer, warns IATA \(Gulf News\)](#) — IATA cautioned that the EU's new Entry/Exit System, requiring biometric registration for non-EU arrivals, risks significant queuing at major hub airports.

13 June 2026 — [Ryanair threatens major Belgium route cuts as aviation tax hike sparks European airline debate \(eTurboNews\)](#) — the carrier warned it would reduce capacity in Belgium in response to a proposed increase in national aviation taxation.

18 June 2026 — [Quieter planes are reducing noise around Schiphol Airport, measurements show \(NL Times\)](#) — Dutch noise monitoring data confirmed measurable improvements as older, noisier aircraft are phased out of the fleet mix.

26 June 2026 — [Aena expands Málaga Airport noise map, will soundproof another 3,500 homes \(Aviacionline\)](#) — the Spanish operator extended its residential soundproofing programme around Málaga, a useful comparator for UK airport noise mitigation schemes.

26 June 2026 — [Pressure grows to suspend EES checks during European summer travel \(Biometric Update\)](#) — further calls from industry to pause the phased rollout of the EU's Entry/Exit System until queuing and IT issues are resolved.

29 June 2026 — [“Stop pretending EU's new border system is working,” says airports chief \(BBC News\)](#) — continued criticism of EES rollout problems from UK airport industry leaders ahead of the summer peak.

Library Additions

Key publications, reports and official documents added to the SASIG website library this month:

- SASIG Bulletin — May 2026 in *Newsletter & Bulletins*
- SASIG LGA Annual Report 2026 in *Reports*
- Agenda papers for the SASIG Full Members (Online) Meeting on the 17/06/2026, including new ICAO Obstacle Limitation Surfaces' talk given to members by guest speaker Nyree Millar-Bell, CAA in *Meeting Papers*

Full library available in the SASIG members' area.

Contact & Membership

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MEMBERSHIP

SASIG membership is open to local authorities and other public bodies with a strategic interest in aviation.

For membership enquiries, please email the secretariat.

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