

Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG) Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG)
Lead Member:	Cllr Jamie Macrae (Chair)
Lead Officer:	SASIG Secretariat c/o Northpoint Aviation

Aim

SASIG's objectives are:

- to promote the need for long-term, sustainable aviation policies that lead to a reduction in the environmental impact of aviation whilst securing appropriate social and economic benefits;
- to increase understanding of the local and global impacts of aviation on the environment and communities;
- to identify and promote the changes needed to move towards sustainable aviation practices within the industry and Government; and
- to work with other organisations and the Government on the formulation of policy advice.

SASIG Policy Principles

- i. To give the people of the UK the social and business opportunities to travel from their nearest airport where feasible.
- ii. To capture, not stifle, the social and economic benefits of aviation using robust and objective evidence.
- iii. To direct aviation growth to locations where it will assist sustainable economic regeneration.
- iv. To minimise adverse impacts – social, economic and environmental – by protecting people and non-transferable habitats.
- v. To ensure that the air transport sector rather than local communities pays the full costs of the impact of all air journeys.
- vi. To offer the aviation industry tough but realistic parameters based upon associated impacts around which to secure growth.
- vii. To ensure that good quality surface access links are provided to airports, particularly public transport links that create integrated transport hubs.
- viii. To promote better point to point air services from regional airports, with sensitive control over all impacts.
- ix. To work with Government and other bodies to ensure that noise impacts as a result of airport growth, airspace changes and flight path changes on local communities are minimised and mitigated.
- x. To support the coordination and integration of the full spectrum of national policies on issues relating to aviation. This must accord with international and regional policy-making and implementation.

- xi. To promote investigation of the impacts of the air freight industry, supporting the development of air freight infrastructure where it is the most appropriate mode.
- xii. To encourage Governments and the aviation industry to make greater efforts to reduce aviation's impacts on climate change.

SASIG strongly supports the Government's work towards a new national aviation policy that:

- Is based on the need to control the impacts rather than the aviation activity.
- Has considered in detail all options for providing capacity to meet forecast demand, and for providing for other, lower levels of demand.
- Embraces the concept of integrated transport provision.
- Audits the parameters that should be used in any forecasts of future demand.
- Adopts an assessment process for aviation developments that explicitly includes all associated costs.
- Sets effective environmental limits for the aviation industry to meet, taking the appropriate form – regulation, charges, taxes, etc.
- Considers and mitigates against the impact of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Develops the economic analysis of aviation, and in particular improves valuation of the net impact – benefits and disbenefits.
- Coordinates with other transport policies and with other associated national policies, such as climate change, and energy policies.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

SASIG meetings and dates held:

SASIG full meetings: July (AGM) and November 2016 & January 2017.

Chair's Advisory Group (CAG) meetings: April, June and October 2016 & January and March 2017.

SASIG Surface Access Technical Working Group: April, Sept. & December 2016 and March 2017.

SASIG Environment, Planning & Airspace Technical Working Group: April, October & December 2016 and March 2017.

SASIG Airports, Cities & Economic Growth Technical Working Group: May & October 2016 and January & March 2017.

National Representation: The ways in which SASIG is represented publicly emphasises the national nature of the membership and thus the sphere of interest. This has included:

The Airports Commission and 3rd runway decision

SASIG was actively involved in the Airports Commission's programme before the Government decided to award Heathrow the decision to expand, in October 2016

Department for Transport, CAA & Defra

- SASIG continues as a member of the Department for Transport's Aviation 'External Advisory Group' (EAG). The group last met in July 2016 and SASIG attended.
- SASIG attended two DfT focus groups in June 2016 regarding night flights at Stansted and Heathrow.

- The CAA continues to seek SASIG's views on its programme of work and particularly now on how decisions on airspace change should be made.
- SASIG is a member of the DEFRA Noise and Nuisance Team external stakeholder panel and attended a meeting on 12th July 2016. Date of the next meeting tba.
- SASIG met with the Aviation Minister, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 21st March 2017 to highlight its work and promote future mutual co-operation with Government officials.

Advisory Board member - 'Runways UK'

Runways UK is an organisation established to provide a platform for public debate about the aviation sector and organise key conferences. It was recognised by the Airport's Commission and has a Board full of senior industry figures. SASIG continues to be an advisory Board Member. The Runways UK 2016 event was postponed due to uncertainty regarding the third runway decision.

Engagement with Other Stakeholders

SASIG's Secretariat has met with, and is continuing to liaise with, other prominent stakeholder groups including the LEP Network, Key Cities, Sustainable Aviation, Aviation Environment Federation and Gatwick Airport Conservation Campaign.

Conferences and Public Fora

SASIG Chair gave a presentation titled: "Assessing the Role of Local Communities" at the Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum Keynote Seminar: "What Now for Airport Expansion in the South East?" on 5th September 2016. A representative from SASIG Secretariat presented at the RAeS's 'Greener by Design' Conference in October 2016 to give SASIG's views on the management and regulation of noise. SASIG also attended the DfT External Advisory Group (EAG) in June 2016 which focused on outlining EAG's intentions in respect of the Modernising Transport Bill and update of the Airports Policy Framework (APF). SASIG was represented at the initial meeting on 24th January 2017 of the Airspace and Noise Engagement Group (ANEG) established following feedback from last year's focus groups and also attended the initial meeting of the CAA Community Discussion Forum held the same day. This quarterly forum aims to unite representatives from areas most impacted by aviation across the UK. SASIG attended CAA Airspace Change Information Sessions throughout February 2017 and Airspace Change and National Policy Statement (NPS) Consultation regional events in April 2017.

SASIG Newsletter

This is a core service emailed monthly by the SASIG Secretariat to members. It contains: editorial; an events diary; 'Monthly Highlights' section; Parliamentary Q & A's on aviation matters; news articles from the month covering Parliamentary News, Government News, London and South East News, Regional News, National and Other Industry News and European News and updates to the SASIG website (publications/ industry documents, etc). It provides a valuable resource, allowing Local Authorities to remain well-informed and take an active role in the aviation debate.