

Purpose

DfT published the Aviation Strategy Next Steps document in April 2018 and is now undertaking a period of research before publishing a Green Paper in autumn 2018.

As part of this, we are reviewing our airspace and noise policies to determine whether there are any areas that would benefit from further consultation in the Green Paper. Within this, we have started a project looking at the role of Airport Consultative Committees (ACCs) and would like to ask UKACCs members for their input and opinions to form the evidence base.

This project will look at the existing [ACC guidance](#) (April 2014) and assess its level of effectiveness. In particular, the project will explore whether the current structure of ACCs empowers them to represent community views effectively and to ensure that ACCs are well placed to engage with the CAA's new Airspace Design Guidance set out in CAP 1616. We do not envisage a full review of the guidance but may make revisions to ensure it stays relevant to current issues such as the airspace modernisation programme and the associated requirement of effective community engagement.

We are seeking your views on the following questions:

- *What do you see as the role of ACCs in effective community engagement; how successful have they been in fulfilling this role?*
- *In view of expected airspace change proposals in the next few years; are there any changes you would suggest to the way that ACCs are structured and operate? How well placed do you think ACCs are to engage with the CAP 1616 process?*
- *Understanding what works with communities will help to focus efforts and resource; what can be done in cases of limited resource/money?*
- *Understanding how ACCs represent communities; how can we ensure community views are fully reflected and continue to represent a broad cross-section, bearing in mind the potential for rapid development of local community groups utilising social media?*

Action

For members to consider the questions, contribute to the discussion at the UKACCS annual meeting and feedback on these by 6th July to feed into our policy development ahead of the Aviation Strategy Green Paper. It is important to us that key stakeholders are involved in policy development to ensure we create rounded, robust, evidence based outcomes.

Background

Aerodromes throughout England, Wales and Scotland are designated under section 35 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 to provide "facilities for consultation with respect to any matter concerning the management or administration of the aerodrome which affects their interests." Government expects all aerodromes to communicate openly and effectively with their local communities and users of the airport about the impact of their operations.

ACCs are a well-established way in which airports can engage with key stakeholders in the local area and beyond. However, in some areas there are many local groups with views and not all can be formally represented on ACCs. We are conscious that airspace change proposals tend to elicit strong views from local communities and that there is a challenge to ACCs in representing all these views, as well as those of airport users. We want to build on all good practice and ensure that all airports, their partners and stakeholders can reach common understanding in the hope that matters can be raised and resolved amicably.

Aviation Strategy Timetable

We are currently at the latter stage of phase 1 and this project forms part of the policy development which will contribute to the Green Paper to be published in Autumn 2018.

