

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services
Date:	30 November 2023
Title:	Strategic Aviation Group Membership
Report From:	Director of Hampshire 2050

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to formally withdraw from the Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG) and cease paying membership fees.

Recommendation

2. That the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services approves the decision to give notice of Hampshire County Council's intention to withdraw from membership of the Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG).

Executive Summary

3. This paper reviews Hampshire County Council's membership of the Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group.
4. SASIG is a membership forum that aims to discuss national aviation issues. It allows local authorities to give collective feedback to Government on aviation related subjects. Further information can be found here: [SASIG | Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group](#).
5. Whilst air transport is very important to the local economy it has not been seen that membership of the group has resulted in tangible benefits to Hampshire. Over the following 12 months it is recommended that the County Council will therefore withdraw from the Special Interest Group, allowing time to appropriately transition and prioritise engagement with the aviation sector.

Contextual information

6. SASIG was established in 1999. The objectives of the group are as follows:

- 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;
 - to work with other organisations and the Government on the formulation of policy advice;
 - to lead on sustainable aviation policy and help influence both the direction of travel and engagement in local issues through our representative presence; and
 - to work with local authorities to promote policies on environmental, economic, social and community sustainability.
7. All of these objectives are to be supported. However, The County Council has no statutory role in developing aviation policy and in practice has been able to represent itself on national air transport policy without needing to be a member of the group.
 8. The County Council joined SASIG at a time when national air transport policy was at the forefront of national transport policy, which is not as prominent at this time.
 9. Both Fareham Borough Council and Rushmoor Borough Council are members of this group. There is a degree of duplication with representation from both tiers of Local Government in Hampshire.
 10. In terms of wider access to strategic level airports in the South-East, Heathrow Airport is of most relevance to Hampshire, being only 15 miles from Hampshire's border in Hart. The County Council is well connected to the Southern and Western access proposals for Heathrow through the County's membership of Transport for the South-East (TfSE).
 11. The option to rejoin the group is open to the County Council in the future if this is deemed to be appropriate.

Finance

12. The annual membership subscription for this group is currently £2,232.
13. Under the terms of the SASIG constitution, authorities resigning from SASIG shall give notice in writing prior to the end of the financial year. The County Council intends to give 12 months notice to ensure appropriate and effective transition from the group. The budget for 2025-2026 would then be reduced by the same amount.

Consultation and Equalities

14. The County Council is currently represented on this group by Cllr Rod Cooper. He is supportive of terminating the County Council's membership of the group.

15. The report recommends withdrawing from a forum. There is no implication for individuals or groups of people with protected characteristics or more widely.

Climate Change Impact Assessments

16. Terminating Hampshire County Council's participation in SASIG makes no difference to carbon emissions within the county or the resilience of any projects and decisions.

Climate Change Adaptation

17. The climate change adaptation tool was not applicable to this report because the decision relates to the membership of a forum.

Carbon Mitigation

18. The climate change mitigation tool was not applicable to this report because the decision relates to the membership of a forum.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	No
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	No
OR	
This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because: Executive Member authority is required for the proposals.	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

The Strategic Aviation Group paper recommends withdrawing from a forum. There is no implication on individuals or groups of people with protected characteristics or more widely.