

Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association

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Local Authorities & Aviation, Regional and Industry News, 12 January - 18 January

Regional News

- 8 January 2015 - [The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead have responded to the Airports Commission regarding its long term capacity consultation by reaffirming its position that it is against expansion at Heathrow Airport.](#)
- 12 January 2015 - [Thanet Council has published a 15-year strategic blueprint for the area, setting out key policies on issues such as housing development, economic regeneration and the environment](#)
- A section devoted to Manston Airport says there is a 'fresh opportunity to review the viability of an operational airport and to consider future options for the vast area of land around airport'.
- 13 January 2015 - [The team promoting the scheme short listed by the Airports Commission for possible expansion - Heathrow Hub - are holding a series of public exhibitions in east Berkshire.](#)
- 13 January 2015 - [Airline operator Ryanair has set itself a goal of carrying two million passengers from East Midlands Airport this year after announcing its summer flying schedule.](#)
- 13 January 2015 - [Durham Tees Valley Airport has reported turnover of £4.57m for the year end 31 March 2014 compared to £4.82m for the same period the year before. Pre tax losses also widened from £3.6m to £4.1m.](#)
- 13 January 2015 - [Robin Hood Airport Doncaster Sheffield has seen a 112 per cent increase in the amount of cargo it transports.](#)
- 15 January 2015 - [Stansted Airport Community Trust has awarded capital grants to the value of £62,000 to a wide variety of organisations within a 10-mile radius of the airport over the past 12 month.](#)
- 16 January 2015 - [A group of residents from Teddington and Twickenham have launched a campaign group - The Teddington Action Group - which is against expansion at Heathrow Airport. The group's website is available \[here\]\(#\).](#)
- 16 January 2015 - [Pre-tax losses increased at Exeter International Airport in the year it was taken over by Regional & City Airports. But the airport owners have stressed that the in the most recent accounts, turnover for the 15 months to 31 March 2014 was £23.4m. This rose from £19.1m in its previous financial year, covering the 12 months to 31 December 2013.](#)

Industry News

- 7 January 2015 - The UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is consulting on their draft policy for ensuring that consumers booking flights serving UK airports have access to high quality complaints handling arrangements. Further details of the consultation (including the consultation documents) can be found [here](#). The consultation is open until 22 February.
- 12 January 2015 - [The air services provider NATS has launched its first ever apprenticeship scheme. The three and a half year programme will see trainee engineers learning about the technology that underpins UK airspace.](#)
- 12 January 2015 - [Virgin Trains saw an 11 per cent increase in passenger numbers on its Anglo-Scottish services last year after increasing the number of seats available by 3000 every weekday. However the number of people travelling to Glasgow to London by plane also increased in 2014.](#)
- 14 January 2015 - Both Heathrow and Gatwick airports have recorded their busiest ever year for passenger numbers. [Heathrow Airport has reported handling 73.4m passengers, a 1.4 per cent rise on the previous year, while Gatwick recorded 38m, passengers, a +7.6 per cent increase over the same period.](#)
- 15 January 2015 - [The UK Civil Aviation Authority \(CAA\) have released their latest data for flight punctuality at UK airports. Overall on-time performance among scheduled and charter flights in the third quarter of 2014 was 75 per cent - six percentage points lower than same period in 2013 \(falling by one third\).](#)

Media News

- 12 January 2015 - [The most recent poll of London residents asking about airport expansion shows that, a larger proportion favour expansion at Gatwick rather than Heathrow \(45 per cent compared to 39 per cent\).](#)
- 13 January 2015 - [The Chief Executive of Dubai International Airport, Paul Griffiths has told The Financial Times that Heathrow Airport is losing a lot of traffic to Dubai because it no longer has the capacity to service certain international connections.](#)
- 13 January 2015 - [The Economist discusses the importance of fuel surcharges in a short blog.](#)
- 15 January 2015 - [Birmingham and Manchester are new entries on Egencia's \(the travel website Expedia's corporate travel unit\) list of the top 20 business travel destinations in Europe.](#)

SASIG works for Local Authorities in a strategic manner on national aviation policy so as to reconcile economic, social and environmental issues.

The following sources are also used in this bulletin: Air & Business Travel News, ACI Airports Council International, Aviation International, BAA Ltd, DeHavilland, Environmental Data Services, International Air Transport Association, BBC, The Independent, The Standard, The Telegraph, Transportinfo, UK Parliament.