

CAA Environmental and Sustainability Panel minutes

10:30 – 16:30 3 May 2023

Attendees

Ruth Mallors-Ray (RMR)	Panel Chair
Charlotte Clarke (CC)	
Martin Hawley (MH)	
David Lee (DL)	
Alistair Lewis (AL)	
Anil Namdeo (AN)	
Mark Westwood (MW)	
Abigail Grenfell (AG)	CAA
Bronwyn Fraser (BF)	CAA, Panel Secretariat
Nic Stevenson	CAA
Sir Stephen Hillier (SSH)	CAA (Item 5)
Helen Leadbetter (HL)	CAA (Item 7)
Panos Loukinas (PL)	CAA (Item 7)

Apologies

Chikage Miyoshi (CM) (present online for item 7)

1. Welcome

RMR welcomed the Panel to its eighth meeting. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2. Update on CAA Environmental Sustainability Strategy implementation

AG noted that the CAA Board had recently published its priorities, informed by those given to the CAA by the Secretary of State, with sustainability being one of the five priorities for the coming year.

The Panel sought feedback on advice it had provided to the CAA at previous meetings, and reiterated its role in providing strategic support to the CAA to assist it in carrying out individual projects against the broader sustainable aviation landscape. The Panel encouraged the CAA to challenge the purpose and value of projects it may be tasked with to ensure they fit with achieving broader strategic goals.

AG noted that a new Net Zero Challenge Lead was being recruited. This will be a high-profile role that will sit in the CAA's Strategy team.

Action: Panel to share CAA recruitment of Net Zero Challenge Lead with own networks.

MW asked how the CAA saw its role in SAF, and whether the CAA felt it had a role in reporting on the implications of different SAF pathways (for example, those raised in the [Royal Society report](#)). RMR noted the CAA's published roles as set out in the CAA's [Environmental Sustainability Strategy](#) around leading and influencing, as well as public perceptions of the CAA's role, and challenged the CAA to consider whether it could be more active in leading and influencing (without necessarily doing) in more areas where CAA could convene stakeholders to drive change forwards.

3. Panel think pieces – update and delivery

The Panel provided updates on the development of its strategic think pieces (to be renamed as 'challenge notes'), as set out in its [interim work programme](#). The Panel reviewed the process to develop these challenge notes with a view to maximising their value to the CAA, including around scoping and defining topics and their purpose at the outset, structure and style and more iterative collaboration with both Panel members and CAA experts. The Panel also discussed requiring the CAA Board to provide input on defining some topics of strategic value to the for the challenge notes.

Action: CAA to develop style guide to support development of Panel challenge notes (formerly known as think pieces) in line with discussion at May Panel meeting.

Action: Panel to finalise selected challenge notes in line with style guide developed by CAA Action: Panel to provide CAA with proposed dates for finalisation of remainder of outstanding challenge notes by 6 June 2023

4. Development of Panel longer-term work programme

The Panel discussed the development of its longer-term work programme, and how it would like to take both a reactive and proactive role to supporting the CAA's delivery of its environmental sustainability work. The Panel noted that early sight of upcoming CAA milestones and deliverables against the Environmental Sustainability Strategy would facilitate its ability to be proactive.

Action: CAA to develop tool showing milestones against delivery of CAA environmental sustainability strategy to give Panel better forward look of CAA work, so as to inform Panel's work programme and identify where Panel may be able to add value.

5. Panel meeting with Sir Stephen Hillier (CAA Chair)

Sir Stephen Hillier and the Panel met to discuss the CAA's priorities, ambitions and challenges around environmental sustainability.

The discussion covered:

- How the Panel can support the CAA Board to build their environmental sustainability literacy;
- The importance of the CAA being able to ask the right questions when carrying out its functions related to environmental sustainability, and how the Panel can support this. SSH

noted that it is not the CAA's role to 'pick winners', but can facilitate the discussions required to progress the transition to sustainable aviation; and

- How the CAA could make an impact on the transition to sustainable aviation where it has no clear authority.

The Panel noted it would explore the above in more detail with the Board.

Action: CAA to articulate Panel's challenge to CAA Board to identify strategic topics for future challenge notes.

6. Environmental impacts of surface access

The CAA sought the Panel's input on the environmental implications of surface access, i to shape and consider where its role may lie in this area. The Panel noted:

- Given the complex landscape of responsibility for air quality, both airside and landside, the panel felt it was important to seek and develop collaboration between the CAA, local authorities and other bodies who collectively may be able to influence air quality around airports, even though each body may not have either direct or total responsibility;
- That there is likely to be a general perception that the CAA has a role in mitigating the environmental impact of surface access, with possible roles for the CAA including:
 - Influencing consumer behaviour and airport investment by endorsing more sustainable surface access options;
 - Reporting on the public health impacts of surface access;
 - Facilitating research and modelling into the impact of different charges on environmental impact of surface access;
- The changing requirements on airports to report and consult on noise and air quality, and how these responsibilities may be extended to CAA at some point.

7. Royal Society Report

The Panel discussed the recent [Net zero aviation fuels: resource requirements and environmental impacts](#) report by the Royal Society with CAA technical experts, to tease out potential considerations for the CAA. The Panel and CAA discussed:

- The value of the report as a source of information to make useful comparators, while not providing solutions as to the way forward on future fuels;
- Technical considerations around the different future fuel types, including practical uses in aircraft, challenges in the different requirements for gaseous and liquid hydrogen and economic impacts from competition for hydrogen with other industries.
- The potential role for the CAA in influencing the discussion on future fuels, beyond its current design and certification remit. The Panel noted that there is a general perception that the CAA will have a role in future fuels (although fuels are currently regulated by the Ministry of Defence) and there is an opportunity to show leadership in convening the various discussions to find a way forward.

8. Panel annual report

The Panel discussed its upcoming first Annual Report, including that it would cover a review of the impact of work undertaken by the Panel in its first year and lessons learned. It is anticipated that the

report will be published by the end of summer. The Panel and CAA also discussed mechanisms for keeping the CAA Board and ExCo updated on the Panel's progress on an interim and ongoing basis.

Action: CAA to develop and agree plan for updating ExCo/Board on Panel progress.

9. Panel teach in – Martin Hawley

MH gave a teach in to the Panel on environmental sustainability challenges and possible solutions related to air traffic management.

10. Summary of upcoming meetings

RMR noted that she would be providing the regular update on the Panel's work programme, along with key messages, to the CAA Board in June.

11. AoB

Nil.