

## **Informal note of meeting on 19 January 2016 between Minister of State Robert Goodwill MP and General and Business Aviation Strategic Forum (GBASF)**

On 19th January a delegation from the GA Strategic Forum met Aviation Minister Robert Goodwill MP to discuss the first formal Progress Report on the Department of Transport General Aviation Strategy issued in March 2015. That report, displayed here, was a thorough and systematic analysis of action against against the 20 Government commitments in the 2015 General Aviation Strategy as well as key commitments in the Government response to the General Aviation Red Tape Challenge.

Roger Hopkinson of the General Aviation Alliance chaired the delegation supported by Marc Bailey of the British Business and General Aviation Association and Martin Robinson of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. Andrew Haines CEO CAA and Tony Rapson of the CAA's GA Unit was also in attendance. Transport Department participants included Aviation Director Patricia Hayes.

To make best use of the time available, the Forum team focussed the discussion areas where least progress had been made, and the Minister was pleased that, by and large, these were outside his department's purview. Two topics that were in the Transport Department's arena were the need to maintain momentum in progressing the GA Road Map adopted by EASA; and airspace allocation. GA representatives will be meeting airspace policy leads soon to discuss airspace matters further and as a lead in to the planned wider DfT consultation on use of Airspace

On planning the Minister asked how many aerodromes were under threat at any point in time. He explained that the Department for Communities and Local Government, which leads on planning, appreciated the importance of recognising local aerodromes as a network. The door was open for the Forum to raise the matter as part of consultation on implementing the planning provisions in the Housing and Planning Bill.

Forum members pointed out that aviation services as a sector was now bigger than aerospace in the UK, and the Minister offered his support for aviation services apprenticeships if that should be necessary. Such apprenticeships are an important feature of the Department's recently published Transport Infrastructure Skills Strategy.

Finally, after a discussion of how the Home Office was continuing to develop their proposals around new regulations and improved technology for the submission of General Aviation reports, the delegation described problems with issuing visas to non-EU overseas students wishing to

undertake pilot training in UK schools and Mr Goodwill undertook to take the matter up with the Home Office.

We expect this to be the first of a series of annual reviews and Ministerial meetings. While much does remain to be achieved, the members of the delegation felt that the process had brought important GA issues to the Minister's attention and generated significant commitments to act.