

## ACP-2017-79 Shetland Space Centre Ltd t/a SaxaVord Spaceport

### Stage 2 'Develop & Assess' Gateway Outcome – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022

[STATEMENT]

As part of Stage 2 'Develop & Assess' of the CAP 1616 airspace change process, the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has completed a 'Develop & Assess' Gateway Assessment of SaxaVord Spaceport's airspace change proposal (ACP-2017-79).

In order for the CAA to allow an ACP to pass through the Develop & Assess Gateway:

1. the change sponsor must have produced a comprehensive list of airspace change design options;
2. the change sponsor must have engaged with relevant stakeholders to explore those options to the CAA's satisfaction against the requirements in Appendix C;
3. the change sponsor must have produced a design principle evaluation that the CAA has accepted, showing how its design options have responded to the design principles;
4. the change sponsor must have produced an Initial options appraisal (phase I);
5. the CAA must have produced and then published an assessment that the options appraisal is satisfactory against the requirements in Appendix E.

At the Gateway assessment for this proposal, the CAA concluded that not all criteria were met.

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** The submission did not evidence clearly that the Design Options were influenced through stakeholder engagement against the requirements in Appendix C.
- **Initial Options Appraisal:** The Initial Options Appraisal (which built on Step 2A) contained very limited information with regards to high-level assessment of costs and benefits of the viable options (which did not allow the CAA to conclude that it had been correctly undertaken). In addition, the baseline option was not correctly defined and was not considered as a comparator against the proposed options and hence the Initial Options Appraisal does not provide any meaningful information in terms of the additional benefit or cost of the viable options. Consequently, the CAA has been unable to complete its Initial Options Appraisal Assessment as the sponsor has not followed the guide to expected approach to key analysis for a typical airspace change (CAP 1616 Appendix E Table E2).

The CAA has informed the change sponsor of this decision. In line with CAP 1616, the change sponsor is now able to reconsider its submission before resubmitting it for further review by the CAA at a future Develop & Assess Gateway.

It is important to note that whether an ACP passes a Gateway successfully or not does not predetermine the CAA's later final decision on whether to approve the airspace change proposal. This decision is not an explicit or implicit comment on the merits or otherwise of this ACP. This will come at the decision-making stage (Stage 5 - DECIDE).

[END STATEMENT]