

## ACP-2021-012 SPACEPORT-1

### Stage 2 'Develop & Assess' Gateway Outcome – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

[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 Spaceport-1's airspace change proposal (ACP).

In order for the CAA to sign-off the Stage 2 Develop & Assess Gateway, the following criteria must have been met:

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 Criteria 2 and 4 were not met for the following reasons:

**Criterion 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;**

- In Stage 2, the sponsor is required to have engaged with the same stakeholders that it did in Stage 1. The sponsor had not supplied a definitive list of stakeholders in Stage 2 to compare with Stage 1 (paragraph 125).
- The sponsor is also required to provide evidence of feedback in Stage 2 (C10, p.180) and how views have been captured and taken into account by the sponsor (C28). Minutes of a meeting between the sponsor and stakeholders were not provided and it was unclear if/how meeting outcomes could have influenced the options appraisal.

**Criterion 4: The change sponsor must have produced an Initial options appraisal (phase I);**

- The Initial options appraisal (phase I) lacked justification for the detail of analysis undertaken and its proportionality and therefore was considered to miss certain elements of the assessment requirements (baseline description, traffic survey and forecast, evidence for scaling of assessments).

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]