CAP 1616 – Stage 2 ‘DEVELOP & ASSESS’ Gateway

Checklist of Requirements

ACP Reference Number	ACP-2025-013
ACP Title	Modernising Midlands Airspace
Change Sponsor	NATS
Consultancy (if applicable)	N/A
Approved Procedure Design Organisation (if applicable)	N/A
Gateway Date	27th Feb 2026

This checklist has been developed to ensure that Change Sponsors address relevant regulatory requirements when compiling their submissions to the CAA. Completion of this form does not in itself guarantee CAA approval. The CAA will review and assess the actual content of the Change Sponsor's submission, before making a regulatory decision on whether the relevant regulatory requirements have been addressed satisfactorily. Change Sponsors should refer to the contents of CAP 1616 and CAP 1616f for further guidance on the requirements listed below.

Gateways

To help Change Sponsors and affected stakeholders track how a proposal is progressing and to give greater certainty that the Change Sponsor is following the process correctly, the CAA applies a series of three Gateway sign-offs during the seven-stage process. A sign-off provides the CAA’s approval that relevant process requirements and guidance have been correctly followed up to that point, and gives the Change Sponsor the CAA’s

approval to move to the next stage in the process. The purpose is to minimise any work having to be repeated, particularly in getting the supporting documentation for consultation right.

Passing a Gateway does not predetermine the CAA's later final decision on whether to accept the Airspace Change Proposal. Where the CAA is not satisfied that the relevant process requirements have been met, it is likely that the Change Sponsor would need to revisit the stage(s) concerned. It is entirely at the CAA's discretion whether to give approval for the Change Sponsor to move beyond the Gateway.

Stage 2 'DEVELOP & ASSESS' Gateway Requirements

Requirement		**YES/N/A**	**Document/Section** [Change Sponsor to signpost the relevant document/section]
1.	Have you developed the Baseline Scenarios and produced a list of Design Options that address the Statement of Need and align with the criteria from the Design Principles?	Yes	Stage 2 Submission Para 2.3.5 and Section 3
2.	Have you explained how the Design Options address the Statement of Need?	Yes	Stage 2 Submission Para 2.3.5
3.	Have you provided evidence and supporting rationale to justify where single or limited Design Options are presented?	Yes	Stage 2 Submission Subsection 2.3
4.	Have you shared the Baseline Scenarios and Design Options with the same set of stakeholders you engaged with during Stage 1 and given them the opportunity to provide related feedback?	Yes	Stage 2 Submission Paras 3.4.1 to 3.4.5 & Appendix B Summary of Stakeholders
5.	Have you explained and provided a rationale for the engagement approach/methodology used throughout Stage 2?	Yes	Stage 2 Submission Paras 3.4.1 to 3.4.5
6.	Have you provided relevant engagement evidence (materials distributed, meeting/workshop presentations and minutes (where relevant), and copies of related correspondence)	Yes	Annex A Engagement Evidence
7.	Have you demonstrated what you have heard and how this feedback has or has not informed the development of the Design Options?	Yes	Stage 2 Submission Subsection 3.4, Para 3.4.12, Footnote 2 in Para 4.1.3, Subsection 4.3 and Subsection 4.4.
8.	Have you described the methodology used for the Design Principle Evaluation?	Yes	Stage 2 Submission Subsection 4.1

9.	Have you evaluated how the Design Options respond to each of the Design Principles, specifying whether they have been met, partially met or not met?	Yes	Stage 2 Submission Section 4
10.	Have you used the standard proforma to develop a report for each Design Option, which includes: • A description of the Design Option • A qualitative assessment in accordance with the assessment criteria matrix, which summarises how it has met, partially met or not met each Design Principle • Explanation of whether the Design Option has been progressed or discounted	Yes	Stage 2 Submission Section 4
11.	Have you conducted an Initial Options Appraisal of the impacts of each of the Design Options using the metrics against which Design Options are being assessed?	Yes	Stage 2 Submission Section 5
12.	Have you taken into account the Air Navigation Guidance (2017) when developing your methodology for the Initial Options Appraisal?	Yes	Stage 2 Submission Subsection 5.1
13.	Have you modelled the Initial Options Appraisal on the statutory factors and where applicable, Government policy, that the CAA is required to consider	Yes	Stage 2 Submission Subsection 5.1
14.	Have you ensured that the Initial Options Appraisal is objective (unbiased), repeatable and consistent against the defined criteria?	Yes	Stage 2 Submission Section 5
15.	Does the Initial Options Appraisal of each Design Option include: • A qualitative and where possible, quantitative assessment according to the nature of the airspace change proposal and potential impacts • An indication of the likely environmental impacts, including any direct and consequential impacts • A high-level assessment of all reasonable costs and benefits involved • A qualitative assessment of the potential impacts on safety	Yes	Stage 2 Submission Section 5
16.	Have you provided an indication of the preferred Design Option(s) within the Initial Options Appraisal?	Yes	Stage 2 Submission Para 7.1.3
17.	Have you justified the noise modelling category that is applicable to the airspace change proposal (CAP 2091)? If yes, which category has been determined?	N/A	Level 2 ACP, no noise modelling as per Stage 2 Submission Paras 1.4.2 to 1.4.5
18.	Have you used the most up-to-date, credible and clearly referenced sources of data to assess the impacts of the baseline scenarios and Design Options?	Yes	DPE and IOA used qualitative SME assessments so not applicable.

			Baseline description Stage 2 Submission Sub-section 3.1
19.	Have you described how evidence will be collected to support the development of the Full Options Appraisal and how any evidence gaps will be filled within the Initial Options Appraisal?	Yes	Stage 2 Submission Sub-section 5.4
20.	Have you completed the Habitats Regulations Assessment Early Screening Criteria form?	N/A	Agreed with CAA that this is not required, Stage 2 Submission 1.4.5 references this for stakeholder awareness
21.	Have you demonstrated if the Airspace Change Proposal is aligned with the Airspace Modernisation Strategy (CAP 1711) and where applicable, the relevant iteration of the airspace change masterplan.	Yes	Stage 2 Submission subsection 1.2
22.	Have you published the relevant Stage 2 'Develop and Assess' Gateway documents (redacted as appropriate) on the Airspace Change Portal? If the proposal been given a provisional Level 1 status, has a potentially affected area been uploaded to the Airspace Change Portal? (CAP 2385)	Yes	On Portal Page

Please provide any additional information below which is relevant to the Stage 2 'Develop & Assess' Gateway submission.

NERL expects this ACP will be categorised as a Level 2 ACP as we have constrained the design so that tracks will not be altered below 7,000ft. The impacts assessed align with this ACP level and justification is provided in the Stage 2 Submission Document Subsection 1.4.

In this version of the Stage 2 Checklist (1.1), item 19 has been updated.