Safety & Airspace Regulation Group
Airspace, Air Traffic Management and Aerodromes Division

15th September 2026

Ref: ACP-2025-013 - Modernising Midlands Airspace

Dear Sponsor,

The Department for Transport (DfT) has now published its Air Navigation Directions (AND) 2026 and Air Navigation Guidance (ANG) 2026 both of which come into effect on 1st October 2026. In light the changes to Government policy within the ANG and AND, the CAA has also published a revised airspace change process (CAP 1616 version 6) which has an effective date of 1st October 2026.

The ANG 2026 includes the criteria for the applicability of the ANG 2026 when it becomes effective, and how this applies to airspace change proposals (ACPs) which commence after the effective date and those currently in progress (ANG 2026 paragraph 11 refers), with Direction 4 of AND 2026 requiring that procedures and guidance developed by the CAA must reflect Government policies This letter sets out how the DfT criteria applies to your ACP in accordance with ANG 2026.

Your ACP has been identified as having completed the Stage 3 gateway under CAP 1616 version 5.1 (or earlier CAP1616 versions) by 1st October 2026. In accordance with the ANG 2026, in recognition of the work you have already completed to date, you may continue to progress your ACP under ANG 2017 and CAP 1616 version 5.1, provided that you submit your proposal to the CAA for decision no later than 31 July 2031.

Whilst continuing to progress your ACP under CAP 1616 version 5.1, you must actively continue to progress your proposal and maintain a clear up-to-date timeline. Should any issues arise or any changes to the timeline develop in the course of progressing your ACP, you should contact the CAA. From time to time the CAA may review progress of ACPs and where this results in evidence that suggests the proposal is not progressing as expected, we will contact you to discuss such issues and next steps for progressing the ACP. Should you become aware that your planned submission date is to change you should contact us at the earliest opportunity.

We intend to publish this letter on the CAA airspace change portal on the 1st October 2026.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your proposal, please contact your account manager.

Yours sincerely

Ben Lippitt
Manager Airspace Regulation

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