

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee: North Weald Airfield and Asset Management Cabinet Committee **Date:** Monday, 8 November 2010

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping **Time:** 6.35 - 8.00 pm

Members Present: C Whitbread (Chairman), Mrs D Collins, B Rolfe, D Stallan and Mrs L Wagland

Other Councillors: K Angold-Stephens, Ms R Brookes, Mrs A Grigg, Ms J Hart, Mrs C Pond, J M Whitehouse and D Wixley

Apologies: Mrs M Sartin

Officers Present: D Macnab (Acting Chief Executive), J Gilbert (Director of Environment and Street Scene), D Goodey (General Manager North Weald Airfield), C Pasterfield (Principal Valuer/Surveyor), P Sewell (Democratic Services Assistant) and G J Woodhall (Democratic Services Officer)

Also in attendance: W Millington, N Kaberry and R Purvis (Halcrow)

26. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 May 2010 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(a) Pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct, Councillors Mrs A Grigg and D Stallan declared a personal interest in agenda item 6, North Weald Airfield – Aviation Intensification Study, by virtue of being members of North Weald Bassett Parish Council, who had met with Halcrow on 26 October 2010. The Councillors had determined that their interest was not prejudicial and would remain in the meeting for the consideration of the issue.

(b) Pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct, Councillor J M Whitehouse declared a personal interest in agenda items 4 and 5, Asset Coordination Group 24 June 2010 and 23 September 2010, by virtue of living in close proximity to the St John's Road development site. The Councillor had determined that his interest was not prejudicial and would remain in the meeting for the consideration of the report.

28. ASSET MANAGEMENT COORDINATION GROUP - 24 JUNE 2010

The Cabinet Committee considered the notes of the Asset Management Coordination Group held on 24 June 2010. They considered the information regarding the sites owned by the District Council and noted the progress.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Asset Management Coordination Group held on 24 June 2010 be noted.

29. ASSET MANAGEMENT COORDINATION GROUP - 23 SEPTEMBER 2010

The Cabinet Committee considered the notes of the Asset Management Group held on 23 September 2010. They considered the information regarding the sites owned by the District Council and noted the following progress:

- (i) Langston Road Depot – various public consultation events planned, to be held prior to the planning application being submitted;
- (ii) Temporary Depot at North Weald Airfield – reasonable progress being made, will report back to the Cabinet Committee in due course;
- (iii) Merlin Way Business Park – development was currently not looking profitable;
- (iv) Torrington Drive – current developer wanted restricted residential development above the supermarket;
- (v) Church Hill Car Park – discussion ongoing, but progress was slow pending the outcome of the future of the petrol station at Torrington Drive;
- (vi) Pyrles Lane Nursery Site – plant storage to be moved to Oakwood Hill, and topographical survey to be completed;
- (vii) Winston Churchill Public House - no progress currently being made; and
- (viii) St John's Road Depot – Savilles had been appointed as property consultants.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Asset Management Coordination Group held on 23 September 2010 be noted.

30. NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD - AVIATION INTENSIFICATION STUDY

In August 2010 Halcrow had been appointed to undertake the Aviation Intensification Study of North Weald Airfield. They had subsequently met with a number of airfield tenants and interested parties and had collated a lot of detailed information on aviation policy and practice in the region. Three representatives from Halcrow attended the meeting and gave a presentation to the Cabinet Committee on their interim report. The current schedule envisaged their final report being considered by the Cabinet in March 2011.

The interim report gave an overview of North Weald Aerodrome, setting out current data on aircraft movements and airfield infrastructure. These were fitted into a wider planning framework, which took account of the site being both important and sensitive due to its size, location and heritage. As well as current percentages of financial returns, the interim report paid particular attention to preliminary aviation market analysis. The demand for different aircraft movements were noted, and the flight data for the past 9 years from similar airfields was presented, which had followed the economic trend of a peak in 2007, slowly declining to 2009. A detailed

analysis of aviation based costs at North Weald Airfield would be included in the concluding report.

The interim report also highlighted the issue of licensing, a subject currently being discussed between Halcrow Group Ltd and the Civil Aviation Authority. Runway length and condition would be key considerations, as well as be the Obstacle Limitation Surfaces assessment. These issues would be presented in detail in the final report. Preliminary consultation with aviation tenants, the Parish Council, and local residents groups had been generally positive. Noise levels were the most prominent concern for residents, and the protection of current usage agreements for the aviation tenants. Further consultation was currently being undertaken to obtain a more comprehensive overview of tenants' opinion.

In response to questions from the Members present, the following points were emphasised:

- Stapleford Aerodrome predominantly catered for recreational flying and had a commercial flying school attached as well; the focus for North Weald was currently business aviation;
- Halcrow was happy to consult with the non-aviation tenants at the Airfield if the Council so desired, but did not feel it was necessary;
- there were no figures yet for potential costs of investment by the Council, but it would probably involve quite significant capital and revenue costs to improve and maintain the runway, lighting and also to remove obstacles close to the runway;
- different mechanisms would be examined for funding the improvement works;
- the aim would be to both attract business from other airfields, and new aviation business;
- other airfields in the South of England were close to capacity, and also had limitations over their use;
- the potential market share for North Weald would be quantified before the final report was issued; and
- business aviation users tended not to travel by public transport, therefore the airfield at North Weald only being accessible by road would not be a disadvantage.

The Director of Environment & Street Scene added that wider public consultation arrangements with local residents on any potential preferred option would be decided by the Cabinet in March 2011, once the final report had been published. The Portfolio Holder for Finance & Economic Development thanked Halcrow for presenting the interim report to the Cabinet Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the receipt of the interim report for the Aviation Intensification Study at North Weald Airfield be noted.

31. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

It was noted there was no other urgent business for consideration by the Cabinet Committee.

CHAIRMAN