

# ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 28 May 2024

**Subject:** North Weald Airfield New Control Tower / Fire Station development & Post Google Land Sale Obligations

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor T Matthews

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## **Recommending:**

- (1) That the Council approve a variation to the Capital Programme, the estimated sum of which is £300,000, to facilitate the Cabinet's approval of the funding for associated equipment required for the new Control Tower Building including that for the Visual Control Room (VCR).**
  - (2) That the Council approves the variation to the Capital programme to facilitate the Cabinet's approval of the management and delivery of obligatory capital works arising from the transaction conditions within the sale of land inside the employment Master Plan area. This includes the adaptation of a new interim Airfield access point and enabling works associated with the electrical power supply. The estimated sum is £554,916.**
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## **Report**

1. The purpose of the Cabinet report (C-006-2024-25), which was presented and approved by the [Cabinet on 28 May 2024](#), will fund the construction and fit out costs of a new combined Control Tower Building / Fire Station facility (for which planning consent was granted for on 28th March 2024) and the management and delivery of obligatory capital works arising from the transaction conditions within the sale of land to Google.
2. The capital programme agreed in February 2024 included a provisional sum for the control tower of £4.9 million, which is sufficient to cover the expected construction costs. No provision has been made in the Capital Programme for the VCR equipment, power supply and entrance works as this cost has only been identified subsequently.
3. Therefore, whilst Cabinet approved the construction of the Control Tower, authority will need to be sought from Council to vary the Capital Programme in order to update the VCR equipment, divert the power supply and carry out the necessary entrance works.
4. The works are necessary as part of the Council's decision to release part of the airfield for employment use and the capital receipt generated from the partial sale of the employment land to Google can be used to fund these capital costs.
5. Therefore, we recommend to Council the approval of the variation to the Capital programme, as set out in this report.