

Report to the North Weald Airfield Strategy Cabinet Committee



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Date of meeting: 28 July 2008

Portfolio: Leader's

Subject: North Weald Airfield – Contact with Interested Parties/Developers

Responsible Officer: Derek Macnab (01992–564260).

Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992–564470)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Council's current policy with respect to contact with interested parties/developers, remains in place until such time as it may be amended to reflect changed circumstances.

Executive Summary:

This report seeks views on the action to be taken by officers in relation to unsolicited approaches in relation to possible development at the Airfield.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

The Council is not yet in a position to make any decision about the long term future of the Airfield.

Other Options for Action:

To enter into detailed discussions with interested parties.

Report:

1. Following publication of the East of England Plan, the Council is again starting to receive unsolicited approaches, largely from companies involved in Business Aviation. With respect to handling such enquiries, it was agreed by members of the North Weald Airfield Working Party and Policy and Co-ordinating Committee in 2000 that the then Head of Planning Services should record details of individuals and companies expressing an interest in the future development/management of the Airfield.

2. Members acknowledged that officers had received and would continue to receive informal approaches from developers in the light of the Drivers Jonas report and ongoing strategic planning studies. However, because the Council was not able to take any decisions about the long-term future of the Airfield, it was premature to do more than simply note interest, rather than involve members and officers in detailed discussions about possible scenarios.

3. Since this time, officers have complied with this protocol and advised developers accordingly. Members can inspect the record of interests expressed, but there are no "results" of discussions to share with members at this stage. Of course, if development

and/or disposal is contemplated by the Council in the future, then formal discussions would be necessary, involving ward members, other councillors and stakeholders in the normal way.

4. Members are asked to reaffirm this approach until such definite proposals emerge.

Resource Implications:

None

Legal and Governance Implications:

None

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

No implications at this stage.

Consultation Undertaken:

None

Background Papers:

None

Impact Assessments:

None at this stage