

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet **Date:** 14 December 2010
Subject: Unplanned Emergency Items - Funding
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Whitbread (Finance and Economic Development) **Item:** 14

Recommending:

That the increase in District Development Funding of £27,790 from the refund of National Non-Domestic Rates for Waltham Abbey Sports Centre be utilised to finance the following one-off unplanned emergency works totalling £25,693:

- (a) emergency ditch work at North Weald Airfield;**
 - (b) investigation of the Bund at North Weald Airfield;**
 - (c) security at Roding Valley; and**
 - (d) security at North Weald Airfield (two incidents)**
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Background

1. There have been occasions during the current financial year when emergency works/services had to be undertaken due to unforeseen circumstances. At the time action was required, Finance and Environment and Street Scene Officers discussed the options, risks to the Council if the work was not undertaken and decisions were made on the findings. The works were undertaken on the understanding that future funding would need to be found without increasing the Continuing Services Budget. This report outlines the work undertaken and proposals for financing that work.

Emergency Ditch Work at North Weald Airfield

2. The Council is responsible for the clearance of ditches and culverts in Church Lane, North Weald. When urgent works were identified it was deemed the responsibility of the Council as riparian owners and the fact that the klargester from the gymnasium on Merlin Way ran into the ditches. The works cost £4,896 and it was hoped that this could be met by a reduction in the electricity costs. However, this reduction has not been achieved and alternative funding became necessary.

Investigation of the Bund at North Weald Airfield

3. The Bund that runs within the North Weald Airfield perimeter along the M11 Motorway has been the subject of investigation to see whether there is any likelihood that there would be movement of the structure which could then lead to slippage onto the motorway carriageway. Investigative work needed to be carried out at the end of the 2009/10 financial year but it was not completed until June 2010. As a result the cost falls within the 2010/11 budget. The financial situation was highlighted at the end of the 2009/10 financial year and it was recommended that the funding issue be looked at again at revised budget time. The cost of the work was £6,000 and further ongoing

monitoring has to be completed and officers are awaiting a quotation for this work. The monitoring work yet to be carried out and the requirement for further funding will be the subject of a further report to the Cabinet.

Security at Roding Valley

4. Roding Valley Lake bank erosion works were undertaken in July 2010. The contractor had a caravan and person on site for the duration of the works to safeguard the resources, being stored on site. Council Officers were called to a serious on-site situation when the contractor's caravan and the representative were being abused by vandals, with missiles being hurled around. Police presence was required. It was advised by the Police that a security presence should be in place at night whilst the contractor was on site. This involved the cost of £2,197.

Security at North Weald Airfield

5. North Weald Airfield has experienced two occurrences during the financial year when travellers had positioned themselves opposite at the Airfield. The Airfield does not have any security or staff between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. and therefore the risk to the facility and tenants and the duty of care of the Council was reviewed during this period. It was assessed that an overnight security company should be engaged as a presence on the Airfield during the time that Council Officers were not on site and for the duration of the travellers' presence. The cost of this presence amounted to £12,600.

Funding

6. The items outlined above total £25,693. There has been a refund of business rate for Waltham Abbey Sports Centre of £27,790 and we are recommending that these emergency one-off, unplanned items are funded within the Environment and Street Scene Budget by this income.