

Report to the North Weald Airfield Cabinet Committee



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Report reference: C-nnn-2009/10

Date of meeting: 22 March 2011

Portfolio: Finance & Economic Development

Subject: North Weald Airfield Aviation Intensification Study – Final Report

Responsible Officer: J Gilbert (01992 564062)

Democratic Services Officer: Philippa Sewell

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) To receive the Executive Summary, full final report and presentation from Halcrow setting out their deliberations and conclusions on the intensification of aviation activity at North Weald Airfield;**
- (2) Subject to (1) above to consider whether to proceed to the second stage of the assessment process and if so:**
 - (a) which of the intensification options to pursue; and**
 - (b) the procurement methodology**
- (3) To give consideration to any consultation required as part of this overall exercise; and**
- (4) To recommend to Cabinet accordingly**

Executive Summary:

Following a member appointment panel, Halcrow were awarded the contract for the aviation intensification study in late August 2010. Halcrow presented their initial findings to a meeting of this Committee on the 8th of November 2010. It had originally been intended for the final report to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on the 7th of March 2011 but this has not been possible. The findings of this Committee will therefore be reported to Cabinet at its meeting on the 18th of April 2011. Representatives from Halcrow will make a presentation on their findings in the public session of this meeting and remain to take Cabinet Committee members through financial and other confidential details in part 2 of the meeting.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To enable consideration of the final report and to make recommendations to Cabinet.

Other Options for Action:

There are no options other than those set out in the Halcrow report or this supporting Committee report.

Report:

PART 1 REPORT

Background

1. Attached to this report is the Executive Summary of Halcrow's final report setting out their assessment of the possibilities of intensifying aviation at North Weald Airfield. Members commissioned the report in order to establish:

- (a) the true costs of aviation activities at the Airfield;
- (b) the degree to which aviation was being subsidised by other commercial activities on the Airfield;
- (c) whether there were aviation intensification options available which might enable additional income to be generated such as to significantly reduce or remove the non-aviation based subsidy;
- (d) what, if any, type of development(s) might be possible to support aviation intensification; and
- (e) what was the status of the airfield now in terms of safety given the mixed commercial, leisure and aviation based usage.

2. When presenting the interim report in November 2010, Halcrow highlighted the key issues as being:

- licensing of the airfield
- security concerns due to mixed use
- the likelihood that the Council may need to provide significant levels of investment
- planning constraints
- current and future projected demand for business aviation which could not be met at existing business aviation airfields.

3. Since November, and following meetings with officers, Halcrow have continued to develop the available options and these are set out in their full final report, which, due to confidential and sensitive information contained within it, has been provided at this stage only to Cabinet Committee Members. The Executive Summary is however appended to this report as a publicly available document.

4. The Committee is reminded that the exercise to review the activities at the Airfield is divided into two stages:

- (a) an initial review of current aviation activity (to include safety and security issues) along with an assessment of potential options to expand; and
- (b) if after an evaluation of the outcome of stage one, the Council was minded to proceed with any aviation led proposal, then to commission a second stage to seek a further more detailed assessment of planning, property and development issues to establish the best means of delivering intensification of aviation, whilst maximising the financial benefits to the Council.

The report being considered at this meeting completes stage one of this two stage approach,

and Members will need to consider whether they consider it appropriate to move onto a further stage in the light of Halcrow's findings and report.

5. Representatives from Halcrow will present their findings in this part of the meeting but will confine themselves to the information contained within the Executive Summary. They will remain for the confidential part of the meeting in order to deal with issues which Members may wish to raise contained within their full report.