

Report to the Council

**Subject: Asset Management and
 Economic Development**

Date: 6 November 2012

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs A Grigg

Recommending:

That the report of the Asset Management and Economic Development Portfolio Holder be noted.

North Weald Airfield

Although it has now been some time since the Olympic Games ended, I should inform Members that the use of the Airfield as a Park and Ride facility for the Olympic White Water Centre worked very well, although the numbers of vehicles using the facility were much less than the Olympic authorities had anticipated. The removal of the park and ride facilities went as planned and there were no unscheduled disruptions to Airfield activities throughout the Olympic period.

Halcrow are in the process of being appointed to undertake some non invasive testing of the structure of the main runway. This testing is intended to ensure that the runway is suitable for its current uses and will also inform the strategic review of the Airfield mentioned below in this report.

Following a discussion at the North Weald Airfield and Asset Management Cabinet Committee, Cabinet at its meeting in September agreed to commission a strategic review of the Airfield, to be undertaken as part of the development of the new Local Plan. A brief has been drawn which will be considered at the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on the 29th of October. A procurement exercise is currently way, using a Government Procurement Service Framework Agreement and the intention is that this review should be completed and reported back to Members in time for the recommended outcome(s) to become part of the Local Plan "Preferred Options" consultation scheduled to commence in the summer of 2013.

There is a proposed letting of the offices at the Control Tower to Accountants for a term of five years, with a mutual break clause on the third anniversary. The rent is to be £5,200 per annum rising to £6,000 per annum after one year. The approximate area of the offices is 500sqft.

Oakwood Hill Depot, Loughton

Detailed design plans are now being progressed by our consultants in respect of the Oakwood Hill depot. Local Ward Councillors will be consulted on the design plans.

Depot for Waste Management Service

Alternative locations continue to be investigated for the relocation of the depot for the waste management service, in addition to alternative procurement options. Ward Councillors will be consulted as agreed at the recent North Weald Airfield and Asset Management Cabinet Committee.

Langston Road Retail Park

Negotiations are continuing with Polofind regarding a joint development of both sites. The Leader of Council and the Portfolio Holder for Asset Management and Economic Development have recently met with Colliers International to discuss financial matters in relation to the Langston Road site.