

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 19 February 2013

Subject: Call-In and Urgency – Review of North Weald Airfield –
Appointment of Consultants

Portfolio Holder: Councillor A Grigg (Asset Management and Economic
Development)

Recommending:

To note that the Chairman of the Council agreed that the decision of the Cabinet to appoint Drivers Jonas Deloitte to deliver the review of North Weald Airfield at a cost of £145,000 plus meetings disbursements should be treated as a matter of urgency and should not be subject to call-in.

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1. The Cabinet at its meeting on 10 September 2012 agreed to appoint consultants to undertake a review of North Weald Airfield and sought approval to a supplementary District Development Fund estimate of £150,000. The Council approved a supplementary estimate of £150,000 at its meeting on 27 September 2012.
2. A procurement exercise was undertaken to secure consultants managed by the Essex Procurement Hub utilising the Government Procurement Service Multi-Disciplinary Consultancy Framework. Tender documents were issued to 10 consultants but only three responded and only two tenders were received.
3. Following a comprehensive assessment process including analysis by an Officer Project Team and presentations and questioning by the North Weald Airfield and Asset Management Cabinet Committee and North Weald Ward members, Drivers Jonas Deloitte were the highest scoring consultant.
4. There is a need for the commission to be commenced without delay and completed in accordance with the timeframe of the Local Plan development process in order to limit the risks of the Local Plan being considered “unsound” at any future inquiry.
4. Accordingly, the Chairman of the Council agreed, in accordance with Rule 21 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, that the decision of the Cabinet was reasonable in the circumstances, should be treated as a matter of urgency and should not be subject to call-in as any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would have seriously prejudiced the Council’s interests.