

# ***Report to the Council***

**Subject:       Asset Management and  
                  Economic Development Portfolio**

**Date:       30 July 2013**

**Portfolio Holder:   Councillor Anne Grigg**

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## **Recommending:**

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

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## **Economic Development Initiative Fund**

The Council allocated £35,000 for a new town centres' economic development initiative fund for 2013/14. There have been a number of meetings with the Town Partnerships and a workshop was also held to discuss possible initiatives. It is intended that the projects would contribute to supporting the economy of our town centres.

I am pleased to report that a number of town partnerships submitted successful bids. Some bids were new and innovative and others were tried, tested and previously successful.

1. £6,000 was granted to Ongar Town Forum
2. £3,950 was granted to Loughton High Road TCP
3. £2,265 was granted to Buckhurst Hill TCP
4. £4,000 was granted to Loughton Broadway TCP

There will be a second round of bidding in September for the remainder of the funding (£18,785). I hope to again receive bids for interesting and exciting projects, which will support and promote local business in our town centres.

## **North Weald Airfield Review**

At the point of preparing this report, the review of North Weald Airfield is nearing its conclusion with the consultant's report being submitted to Cabinet at its meeting on 22 July 2013. Subject to any call-in of the decisions made, the options selected will now become part of the emerging local plan "Preferred Options" consultation exercise, which is scheduled to commence in May 2014. I would like to remind Members that the full Deloitte report and supporting appendices were considered by Cabinet in private session, and it is very important both for the local plan process and taking forward any options for the Airfield, that all restricted information remains out of the public domain.

## **Asset Management**

### Langston Road

Meetings with the owners of the T11 site and our respective advisers are taking place. They are constructive but remain commercially sensitive. The timing of relocations from the site is inextricably linked to the Waste Contract procurement process and officers continue to assist in seeking appropriate depot accommodation .

### St John's Road, Epping

A Joint Marketing with Essex CC and the Epping Town Council is underway, with a topographical survey scheduled for 15 July, with viewing days on 22 and 24 July. I understand there has been great interest expressed so far and I reiterate my earlier statement that no commitment has been made and all three councils will participate in assessing the proposals.

### Sir Winston Churchill P.H.

Negotiations with the developer, who has an option agreement with Spirit Pub Group, are progressing well and it is hoped that Heads of Terms will be agreed shortly to enable a confidential report to be submitted to Cabinet in September. If approved, then the developer proposes to submit a planning application. Dependent upon the outcome of the application, a development agreement will be finalised.

### Oakwood Hill

An additional geotechnical survey has been completed and a re- submission of the application is being prepared for the end of August.