

Report to the Council

Subject: Asset Management and Economic Development Portfolio

Date: 26 September 2013

Portfolio Holder: Councillor A Grigg

Recommending:

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

North Weald Airfield Review

Members will be aware that the review of North Weald Airfield has now been completed, and was reported to Cabinet on 22 July. Cabinet resolved to pursue the mixed development option that being a continuation of aviation, with some housing and employment led development. That decision was called in and subsequently reconsidered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a special meeting held on 27 August. Having listened carefully to all of the arguments put forward, Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved to concur with the original decision of Cabinet.

This decision, which is effectively that of the Council acting as landowner of the Airfield, will now go forward to become part of the "Preferred Options" consultation of the emerging Local Plan. That consultation will provide all residents of the district with a further opportunity to review and comment upon the Cabinet's preferred approach. In the meantime I have asked officers to look carefully at how income generation at the Airfield, and particularly aviation, can be enhanced in the medium term, without prejudicing the "Preferred Options" process.