

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 29 July 2014

Subject: Asset Management & Economic Development

Portfolio Holder: Councillor A Grigg

Recommending:

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

1. Estates and Valuation

The Asset Management & Economic Development Cabinet Committee met on 14th July and considered a number of reports related to the North Weald Airfield. Detailed findings and Counsel's advice were considered regarding the runway condition and it was agreed to defer any significant remedial work or consideration of the reduction in runway length, until such time as the Local Plan process is concluded. The operational management of the airfield was also considered and it was recommended to Cabinet to begin the search for an operational partner to develop the aviation business. A further report on the marketing of this opportunity will be brought back to the Cabinet in September.

The Sir Winston Churchill Public House, Loughton Broadway: Following the completion of the development agreement and the granting of planning permission, the development programme is now under way and work on site has commenced.

Proposed Retail Park: Progress continues on the redevelopment of Langston Rd Depot. As the legal arrangements and proposed structures are being finalised for submission to the next Cabinet meeting for consideration, a joint venture consultants' team is being assembled in readiness to manage the construction and market the development.

St John's Road Development, Epping:

The proposal is for purchase of the site by Frontier Estates (Epping) Ltd, subject to planning consent, for a mixed use scheme of food store, cinema, restaurants ancillary commercial use, some residential and accommodation for the Town Council.

This was outlined at the Asset Management & Economic Development Cabinet Committee on the 14th July 2014.

The Cabinet will have considered the detail of the Heads of Terms at its meeting on the 21st July 2014.

If there is further information I can share publicly at Full Council I will do so. However I would reiterate that this is a development proposal, dependent upon planning consent. That application will be considered in the usual way with consultation, representations and professional advice.

That aspect will fall within the separate portfolio of my colleague, Cllr John Philip.

2. Economic Development

Our Economic Development Plans will take the economic priorities agreed by Council and turn them into detailed actions to tackle specific locations and district wide themes. The first report of the Economic Development Plan for Waltham Abbey was reported at the Asset Management & Economic Development Cabinet Committee.

I am grateful to Cllr. Kane for her considerable efforts in organising the Waltham Abbey Business Summit so successfully on the 15th July, which has helped to re-focus the task of engaging with the business community. To support the feedback collated at the summit a number of Waltham Abbey studies have been commissioned which will look in detail at a number of themes including development opportunities and demand for retail space, the health of the high street and opportunities to develop tourism, and patterns of unemployment.

Increased efforts have been made to boost the social media profile and reach of the One Shops Local and Visit Epping Forest websites and initial results show encouraging progress.