

Report to the Council

**Subject: Emergency and Urgent Expenditure
Damage to Roadway - North Weald Airfield**

Date: 30 October 2007

Portfolio Holder: Councillor M Cohen

Item: 12(c)

Recommendations:

- (1) That the need to incur expenditure outside of the Budgeting Framework, as advised by the Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder, with respect to urgent measures taken to repair the roadway at North Weald Airfield be noted;**
 - (2) That a further report be submitted to the Council when the final cost to the Council is known.**
-

1. In accordance with paragraph 2.63 of Appendix B to Financial Regulations, I am advising the Council of the need to incur expenditure outside of the budgeting framework, on the grounds of urgency.
2. During the period of 17 July and 15 August 2007, North Weald Airfield played an important role in supporting the World Scout Jamboree, in particular as a transport and logistic hub.
3. As part of the transport plan, some 250 coaches per day transferred participants and visitors to both the main site in Chelmsford and other satellite venues. The coaches were parked at the Airfield overnight.
4. Despite pre-event inspections to assess the suitability of the infrastructure, it became apparent that the main internal roadway, several hundred metres long, over the period of the hire, was becoming unstable and breaking up in many places. Temporary repairs using road planings were instigated as a short-term solution. However, the roadway is the main exit route for the Market Operation, is used by other hirers for driver training and is a designated route within the Airfield's Emergency Plan.
5. It was, therefore, necessary to invoke the Council's Emergency and Urgent Expenditure procedures in order to have the roadway re-laid immediately after the Scouts vacated the site. A quotation for repair was obtained from the Council's existing contractor, who undertakes other work on the Airfield peri-tracks and runway. The price was checked against the County Council's Schedule of Rates for Highways Work and a recently tendered surfacing contract for work on the Council's Housing Estates. It was found to be competitive.
6. Given that the Council did not warrant that the venue was suitable for the intended use and the Licence Agreement for the Event required the Scout Association to undertake all works to return the venue to the Council in a comparable

condition, the cost of reinstatement work, to a total of £50,038 is being sought from the Scout Association.

7. The Council was in a position to fund initially the work from the existing maintenance budget for the Airfield 2007/08. However, if the costs are not reclaimed this will have a significant impact on general planned maintenance for this year.

8. A claim has therefore, been submitted to the Scout Association, who are currently considering the detail, and are yet to formally respond. However, the working relationship with the Scout Association has been very positive to date.

9. Once a formal response is received, this will be reported to the Council at a future meeting.