

Report to the Council

Subject: Asset Management and Economic Development Portfolio

Date: 5 November 2013

Portfolio Holder: Councillor A Grigg

Recommending:

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

North Weald Airfield

Later on the Council agenda is an item setting out the Leader's decision change the name and terms of reference of the current North Weald Airfield & Asset Management Cabinet Committee. Now that the Deloitte review of the Airfield has been completed, and the process effectively becomes part of the Local Plan process, it was considered sensible to review the operation of this particular Committee. The Cabinet Committee is now to be renamed as the Asset Management and Economic Development Committee, but it is important to note that strategic matters in respect of North Weald Airfield remains part of its remit, as well as proposals for generating more income, particularly from aviation.

St John's Road, Epping

Essex County Council, Epping Town Council and this Council, have carried an expressions of interest exercise which has attracted strong interest. A presentation was made by Savills to EFDC and ETC councillors on 10 October at the Town Council offices. Officers are liaising with the County Council's representatives and a formal report for the Council to consider dealing with both the expressions of interest and the next steps will be made to Cabinet for formal consideration.

Church Hill, Loughton: Former Car Park

This site has been marketed and has attracted considerable interest. A second round of best and final bids is currently underway and I will be reporting to Cabinet once those bids have been professionally assessed.

Civic Offices Entrances

Work was completed in late October to replace the original mechanical entrance doors to the main reception and the cashiers' reception areas with modern sliding doors. This project has improved accessibility for customers who use wheelchairs and pushchairs and is fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination legislation. Some attractive display areas have also been created either side of the new doors.

The latest Light emitting diode (LED) technology has been used in the lighting scheme which will reduce energy consumption and costs as well as providing better illumination.

Further work is to be carried out to replace the overhead lights in the roof of the link between the two buildings using the same technology.

I hope members will agree that this has been a worthwhile project that not only has improved accessibility but has provided a much needed enhancement to the overall appearance of these heavily used entrance areas.

A similar scheme has been included in the Planned and Preventative Maintenance Programme for 2014/15 to replace the main entrance doors on the High Street frontage. This of course will be subject to final approval of next year's budget by the Council.