

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 19 September 2019

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Rule 53 (Special Urgency)

Portfolio Holder: Councillor A Patel (Commercial & Regulatory Services)

Proposed Letting of Land at North Weald Airfield to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs

Recommending:

To note that that Vice-Chairman of Council (in the absence of the Chairman) agreed that the following decision of the Cabinet be treated as a matter of urgency and not be subject to the call-in provision in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Rule (Call-in and Urgency):

(1) The Cabinet agreed to the approval of a new lease of land at North Weald Airfield to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for HGV parking and associated facilities to allow the operation of the checking the documentation of companies importing and exporting high value goods.

(2) Alongside the more formal agreement concerning the use of the Airfield, the Cabinet agreed to seek other benefits from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in terms of infrastructure, planning, information exchange and other legacy benefits.

1. On 5th September 2019 the Cabinet considered a report on the opportunity for EFDC to lease an area of land for the operation of a HGV documentation check point at North Weald Airfield as part of the preparations for a no deal Brexit. This would have a number of benefits for EFDC including income generation, installation of services and utilities and development of a largely unused part of North Weald Airfield.

2. In accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Rule 53 (Special Urgency) of the Constitution, the Vice-Chairman of Council, Councillor H Kane (in the absence of the Chairman) was satisfied that this decision of the Cabinet should be treated as a matter of urgency. The Vice-Chairman of Council was satisfied that any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's interests, as it would substantially lessen the time for negotiations with HMRC and thus the preparation time needed to prepare the airfield and surrounding roads for a no-deal exit from the European Union.