

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HORIZONS

Agenda Item No: 12

Cambridge Airport Relocation Progress Report

To: **Cambridgeshire Horizons Board**

Date: **30 June 2009**

From: **Chief Executive**

Purpose: **To update Board members on progress with investigating options for relocation of Marshall Aerospace airfield operations to enable development of Cambridge East**

Recommendation: **The Board is invited to:**

- a) note progress and comment on the matters raised in the report;**
- b) comment on the draft press release to ensure the process we are involved in can be accurately reported to the wider public**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Development of Cambridge East is a key part of the sustainable growth strategy for Cambridgeshire and the East of England as a whole. Successful development of Cambridge East is dependent upon, among other things, finding an appropriate site for the relocation of Marshall Aerospace's airfield operations. To date, partners have committed much time and effort into exploring sites and, particularly, into pursuing the ultimately abortive Mildenhall option. There is collective agreement that the Mildenhall 'experience' should not be repeated; to that end, Horizons, Marshall Aerospace, Local Authorities, Defence Estates and GO-East are working in partnership to consider alternative local options.
- 1.2 This paper gives a summary of progress made, highlights key areas for further work and sets out a timescale to reach a decision in principle on relocation by Marshall Aerospace.
- 1.3 Critical to this exercise is the ongoing RSS Review process. In September 2009, EERA will undertake a 12 week consultation on options for the scale and distribution of growth across the region for the period up to 2031. The County Council have a responsibility to respond to this consultation and will do so in coordination with other Cambridgeshire local authorities. To prepare this response, the local authorities need to form a view on the deliverability of Cambridge East, and, if it is felt that the site is unlikely to contribute significantly to the County's housing targets to 2031, alternative locations for growth will need to be sought.

2. PROGRESS TOWARDS RELOCATION

- 2.1 Good progress has been made by the partners looking at possible local options. Some details are commercially confidential, and so are dealt with in a paper in Part Two of this meeting.

2.2 Relocation Heads of Terms

- 2.2.1 Defence Estates and Marshall Aerospace met in mid May and Marshall have re-confirmed and clarified their relocation requirements. DE are currently working with MOD colleagues to produce first Heads of Terms, including confirmation of each site's "offer" against Marshall's relocation requirements. As of 18th June, progress for initial Heads of Terms is on target for the week of 29 June though late July is more realistic for completion of this activity.

2.3 Land Use and Planning Considerations

- 2.3.1 However, assessments have been carried out of the constraints and opportunities associated with relocation to any possible site, which has highlighted a number of significant issues:

- Clarity on which elements of the Marshall Aerospace airfield operations are to be relocated
- On-site infrastructure (including improvements needed to runway, navigational aids, airfield facilities)
- Off-site infrastructure (including highways capacity)
- Employment and economic benefit (including possible impacts on supply chain)
- Regional planning
- Impact on staff in terms of journey times to work

3. TIMESCALE TOWARDS A DECISION IN PRINCIPLE

- 3.1 Appendix 1 shows the key work-streams for completion and milestones that need to be achieved to allow Marshall Aerospace to make a decision in principle on relocation. The RSS Review process and need for a view on deliverability of Cambridge East means that all efforts are being made now to allow Marshall Aerospace to make a decision in principle around September.
- 3.2 Meeting this timescale is a significant challenge that is to a large part dependent upon the work of Defence Estates and Marshall Aerospace.

4. A TRANSPARENT PROCESS: INFORMING THE PUBLIC

- 4.1 There is broad agreement that the process of selecting a site and announcing a decision in principle should be as transparent as possible. To ensure this, a draft press statement is being prepared with the intention of completion and release following the Horizons Board meeting.