

14 October 2020

HM Revenue & Customs – Government preparations for the end of the transition period with the EU

Operation of the North Weald Airfield Inland Border Facility, Essex

Dear Resident, Owner or Occupier,

We are writing to provide you with an update on the use of the North Weald Airfield site as an inland border facility as part of the Government's preparations for the end of the transition period with the EU, and to invite you to comment on the proposals during a 14-day period of local engagement which will run until Thursday 29 October 2020.

We wrote to community representatives in late 2019 about our plans to prepare the site, and how it will operate as a temporary inland border facility for use by HGVs.

HMRC has reviewed the future of the site and, based on current plans, it is expected the site will be needed following the end of the transition period with the EU on 31 December 2020. As the existing planning approval expires on 31 December 2020, new planning approval is required to prepare the site for potential use for a further 24 months.

The proposals are for the site to act as a location for starting and ending transit movements of goods to and from the UK. The site would include parking areas for HGVs and other vehicles as well as security measures and facilities to enable the checking of vehicles and goods entering and exiting the site. We expect to need up to 53 HGV spaces at the North Weald Airfield site.

After entering the site, HGVs will visit a check point before being directed to a vacant space where they will undertake customs and transit checks as required. Checks will include paperwork inspection, as well as inspection of goods and consignments in some cases.

Approval for the site will be sought under the requirements of a Special Development Order (SDO). As part of the SDO we are preparing an engagement report that will record the views of individuals and organisations that provide feedback.

We are conducting a 14-day period of local engagement about the proposed use of the North Weald Airfield Inland Border Facility which will run until Thursday 29 October 2020. Feedback received during the community engagement period will help shape details of the proposals, and we would therefore welcome your views on these.

Further details of the proposals, including an information booklet for the North Weald site, can be viewed on our website at www.inlandborderfacilities.uk where feedback can be provided until Thursday 29 October 2020.

Updates regarding the progress of the North Weald Airfield scheme will be posted on the website.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Soutar

HMRC, GB Borders & Infrastructure Delivery Programme