

Executive Summary

This Final Report is part of a Feasibility Study commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council to consider how RAF Scampton could be developed to remain an important operational base and fulfil its potential as a valuable cultural, historic and economic asset for the county. The study is looking at three areas of potential:

- Creating an aviation heritage facility of national and regional significance and centre of excellence which enhances what has been instigated by dedicated volunteers
- Broadening and intensifying use of the airfield and airspace
- Regeneration of un-used, underused and ancillary facilities on the site for the benefit of the local and wider community, to create and retain jobs and to generate value to the local and Lincolnshire economy.

The Feasibility Study has been undertaken in three key stages. The first stage was the baseline study which involved collecting and analysing all the information available on RAF Scampton and the aspirations of potential partners so an appraisal of the development options could be made on a sound, factual basis and that all the physical, financial, operational and other constraints that can have an impact on the development options are fully understood.

The next stage was the options analysis. This involved identifying a long list of options for the future development of RAF Scampton in a series of zones across the site. These zones were:

- Zone A: The Operational Base
- Zone B: The Hangars
- Zone C: Officers Mess
- Zone D: Former barracks to the South of the operational base
- Zone E: Former barracks to the East of the operational base.

The long list of options was scored against the following criteria:

- Meeting vision set out in brief
- Alignment with wider LCC strategic objectives
- Attractiveness of this offer: Would you travel more than two hours, would you stay all day, would you come back?
- Potential benefit to RAF / Least impact
- Utilises existing and available assets
- Work within site constraints and approvals
- Appeal to potential funding partners
- Potential to achieve financial sustainability
- Risk and realism.

This identified a short list of options for further consideration against a series of factors such as: scope, market assessment, potential partners, budget estimate, potential funding sources, business case considerations, governance and management operations and risk and realism.

In relation to the three overarching areas of potential, the options analysis identified opportunities for the creation of an aviation heritage facility and the regeneration of unused and underused facilities on site. However, analysis of opportunities for broadening and intensifying use of the airfield and airspace has identified only limited potential and any opportunity to broaden the use is likely to have significant cost implications with limited income generation potential.

This final report is the third stage of the study and brings together the different options identified into a preferred scheme in terms of a vision for RAF Scampton in the future, covering two of the three original areas for potential. The Vision for RAF Scampton going forward is for joint, Royal Air Force (RAF) and heritage/visitor attraction use of the site. It involves the creation of a world class heritage attraction and associated facilities alongside the continued operation and in the future, potential expansion of the RAF base in a unique relationship between local government and the RAF.

The scheme involves the development of a modern aviation museum and themed attraction in Hangars 1 and 2 with a new build visitor centre and exhibition hall with world class displays and highly interactive exhibits and experiences. In addition, an outside viewing area with recreation / play area to the west of Hangar 1 will also be created.

It is considered that a phased approach will be required in order to deliver an ambitious scheme of this nature. It is therefore proposed that the visitor attraction is developed in two initial phases to align with key anniversaries and milestones.

The first phase will involve the refurbishment and fit out of Hangar 2 for re-opening in Spring 2016, with a temporary First World War exhibition to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of RAF Scampton alongside enabling works for the next phase and the creation of a temporary visitor centre. The second phase will involve the creation of a major new build exhibition hall and permanent visitor centre, refurbishment and exhibition fit out of Hangar 1, permanent exhibition fit out of Hangar 2 and creation of outside viewing area and recreational / play area. The aim is to launch the new attraction in 2018 to celebrate 100 year anniversary of the RAF and 75 year anniversary of the Dambusters raid.

In order for the development of RAF Scampton as described above to proceed, a number of critical factors have been identified:

- The immediate development of a detailed interpretative strategy and implementation of a collections policy linked into the interpretative themes.
- Creation of a public access point off the A15 onto Scampton Way and Gibson Drive with a new entrance created where Gibson Drive meets Pollyplatt Lane
- Agreement between Lincolnshire County Council and the Ministry of Defence on land / building ownership and / or appropriate tenure arrangements including the vacation of Hangar 1.
- Agreement between Lincolnshire County Council and the Ministry of Defence on shared cost arrangements
- The identification and delivery of resources to maintain the development of the project in line with the programme requirements
- Research into and identification of appropriate future governance arrangements for the operation of the aviation heritage attraction.