

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 05 December 2016

Portfolio:	Policy and Resources
Subject:	Daedalus Anniversary Events
Report of:	Director of Finance and Resources
Strategy/Policy:	Daedalus Communications Strategy
Corporate Objective:	Strong and inclusive communities

Purpose:

To outline the opportunities to commemorate two important anniversaries at Daedalus over the next three years and to put forward proposals to mark them.

Executive summary:

July 2017 is the 100th anniversary of the opening of Daedalus. This will be followed in June 2019 by the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

There is an opportunity to commemorate these historically significant anniversaries and to use both occasions to increase community awareness of the history of the airfield and attract new use by the flying community.

Recommendations

That the Executive agrees:

- a) a multi-agency working group be established, chaired by an Executive member to coordinate both anniversary commemorations;
- b) the Chairman of the working group be appointed with immediate effect;
- c) a special 100th anniversary 4 page pull out be included in the spring 2017 edition of Fareham Today;
- d) an advertising and media campaign be undertaken promoting Daedalus and targeting the flying community;
- e) a small public event be organised in association with the Lee Flying Association at Daedalus to commemorate the 100th anniversary;
- f) a larger community event takes place in 2019 to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day;

g) a budget of £16,000 be allocated for the proposed 100th anniversary activities; and

h) a budget of £30,000 be allocated for the D-Day Anniversary

Reason:

To provide a fitting community celebration to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the opening of Daedalus and the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

Cost of proposals:

The total cost of both proposals is £46,000 which consists of £16,000 for the proposed 100th anniversary commemorations in 2017 and £30,000 for the public D-Day Anniversary event in 2019, funded from the general revenue reserve.

Appendices: **A:** None
 B: None

Background papers: None

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	05 December 2016
Subject:	Daedalus Anniversary Events
Briefing by:	Director of Finance and Resources
Portfolio:	Policy and Resources

INTRODUCTION

1. In July 2017, it will be the 100th anniversary of the opening of Daedalus. This will be followed in June 2019 by the 75th anniversary of D-Day.
2. There is an opportunity to commemorate these anniversaries and to use both occasions to increase community awareness of the history of the airfield, attract new use by the flying community and arrange a large community event on the site in 2019.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3. Daedalus airfield, now Solent Airport, opened during the First World War on 30th July 1917 as the Naval Seaplane Training School (a sub-station of Calshot). At the time it was known as RNAS Lee-on-Solent. Originally intended as a temporary measure, the sub-station, which consisted of a slipway and hangars, was made permanent in 1918 and later renamed the RAF Seaplane Training School.
4. On 25th October 1934 a new land based airfield immediately to the North East of the slipway was opened. Eventually, on 24th May 1939 'Lee', as it was known, was transferred to the Admiralty as HMS Daedalus.
5. At the start of the Second World War, due to the threat of air raids, the station's buildings were camouflaged and anti-aircraft gun defences and shelters constructed to protect the airfield. By 1941 the variety of naval aircraft flying from HMS Daedalus had increased dramatically with a number of first-line squadrons being based there during the course of their formation and re-equipment.
6. HMS Daedalus was the busiest airfield on the South Coast during D-Day as the RAF were joined by Canadian Typhoons and Mustangs. The US Navy Squadron VCS-7 also used the airfield as the base for their Spitfires.
7. On 6th June 1944, many of the aircraft to take part in Operation Overlord took off towards the Normandy beach head from Lee-on-Solent. The aircraft worked in pairs, with one plane targeting naval gunnery targets, while the other provided protection

against air attack. The number of units deployed from HMS Daedalus for Operation Overlord was 435. This number was the largest achieved by any UK airfield on D-Day.

8. Following the Second World War, Daedalus continued to play a significant role for the Royal Navy, being renamed HMS Ariel on 31 October 1959 to reflect her electrical, radar and ground training emphasis, and in 1962 the joint Service Hovercraft Unit was formed with the aim of testing hovercraft in an operational military environment. In 1965 the Air Station reverted to the name HMS Daedalus.
9. Daedalus continued to be owned by the Royal Navy until 31 March 1996, at which point it was decommissioned and used by the Royal Navy Gliding Club, the Police Air Wing and various light aircraft.
10. A decade later it was acquired by the public sector and transferred to the Homes and Communities Agency in 2011 and successfully secured status as one of UK's new Enterprise Zones.
11. Ownership of the airfield and most of the land passed to Fareham Borough Council in 2015. Since then, the Council has developed a new vision for the Airport, resulting in the refurbishment of the runway, significant improvements to roads, and the planned construction of new hangars.

THE ANNIVERSARIES

12. Recognising that the airfield opened in July 1917, there is an obvious opportunity to commemorate the 100th anniversary of flight at Daedalus in July 2017.
13. The other significant date to recognise is June 2019 which will mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day. Plans are already being developed in both the UK and France to mark this important occasion and Daedalus offers an obvious location for any flight activity in the area, particularly recognising the importance of the airfield in the D-Day commemorations.

AIM

14. Before planning any activities to mark the two anniversaries, it is important to be clear about what the Council aims to achieve from each commemoration.
15. The Council plays a key role in protecting the heritage of the Borough so, in both cases, it is appropriate for the Council to mark the historical significance of the anniversaries and to increase local awareness of the history of flight at Daedalus.
16. The 100th anniversary event also offers an opportunity to promote the new airport at Daedalus to the flying community in the UK. It provides an important marker to contrast "old" and "new" and to encourage increased use of the airport.
17. The 75th Anniversary of D-Day offers the more obvious opportunity for local people to visit Daedalus, see some of the historical aircraft and to participate in a community event on the site.

CONSTRAINTS

18. Whilst the obvious conclusion is to arrange an air show to commemorate both anniversaries, there are serious considerations and costs associated with such activity. The unfortunate air crash at Shoreham in August 2015 resulted in a major review of air shows by the Civil Aviation Authority. As a result there are now significant restrictions on staging air-shows over populated areas, and this has led to a number of established shows being cancelled across the UK. This would not prevent a display of aircraft on the ground but would make it very difficult to include aerial displays other than taking off and landing in accordance with the day to day operation of the airport.
19. Another constraint to recognise is the likelihood of major building works taking place at Daedalus over the next few years. Whilst the development of commercial buildings at Daedalus should not prevent marketing activity and events from taking place, we do need to recognise that construction works will have an impact on the overall appearance of the site and restrict the ability to accommodate large numbers of visitors or aircraft.
20. For example, possible building works over the next three years include the potential construction of IFA2, including the installation of cables; road works including the Ross House junction on Stubbington Lane, the construction of roads/infrastructure across all of Daedalus West and off-site road works to Newgate Lane South; construction of a rising main from the waterfront to Peel Common across the middle of the airfield; and the possible installation of NATS radar.
21. In planning any activity to commemorate the two anniversaries, the key players that need to be involved are:
 - Fareham Borough Council (as the landowner),
 - Regional and City Airports Ltd (as the airport operator),
 - Lee Flying Association (representing part of the flying community), and
 - Maritime and Coastguard Agency (providing emergency rescue services from the airfield),
22. The Homes and Communities Agency and Gosport Borough Council also need to be considered as consultees. Hampshire County Council will also be undertaking significant highways and infrastructure works during 2017 which will need to be considered as events are planned.
23. It is proposed that a working group is established to include the above agencies, chaired by one of Fareham Borough Council's Executive members. The working group would coordinate all activities relating to the two anniversaries. The Council's Leisure Events Team would provide the officer resources required to organise event activity, in tandem with members of Lee Flying Association. The Council's Communications Team would provide the officer resources for any promotional literature and public relations, whilst the Council's property team and RCA would provide airfield safety and operational guidance, given their "accountable manager" role.

Proposed activities

24. It is suggested that there are three main activities to commemorate the 100th Anniversary:-
- A special 4 page pull out in the last version of Fareham Today (March/April 2017) describing the history of the airfield, and how we will celebrate the anniversary, aimed at informing the local community. (Estimated cost £1,000)
 - An advertising and media campaign aimed at the flying community highlighting both the past and the future of Daedalus, to include editorial features in a variety of aviation magazines etc, aimed at the general and commercial aviation communities. (Estimated cost £5,000)
 - A small public event coordinated by Lee Flying Association, including flights by different types of aircraft in and out of the airfield, displays of standing aircraft and hospitality provided for aviation visitors. This event could possibly also include public, escorted access to the control tower (Estimated cost £10,000, the expenditure of which would need to be accounted for and agreed).
25. It is suggested that there is one main activity to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of D-Day:-
- A community event on the site including a display of historical aircraft, the opportunity to see aircraft landing and taking off, stalls, marquees and a funfair etc if space available. At this stage, it is difficult to provide precise costings but it is proposed to allocate a sum of £30,000 as a working budget to be used, subject to detailed proposals from the working group.

FINANCE

26. At this stage, it is proposed to allocate a total budget of £46,000 for both proposals. This is made up of £16,000 for the 100th Anniversary activities and £30,000 for the D-Day Anniversary. Expenditure of both budgets would be subject to a detailed cost breakdown by the working group. If agreed, this would be funded from revenue reserves.

TIMESCALES

27. In order to start the planning process to commemorate both anniversaries it would be necessary to establish the working group immediately so that an initial meeting can be set up straight away and plans for both events can be discussed in earnest as quickly as possible.
28. The Working Group would then be asked to produce detailed proposals for the 2017 event by the end of February 2017 and proposals for the 2019 event by October 2017 at the latest.

CONCLUSION

29. There is an opportunity to commemorate two important anniversaries at Daedalus over the next three years and to use both occasions to increase community awareness of the history of the airfield, attract new use by the flying community and arrange a large community event on the site in 2019.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Lindsey Ansell. (Ext 4567)