

REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 11TH JUNE 2007

REPORT ON: DUNDEE AIRPORT - IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO AIRPORT GRASS AREAS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 298-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request approval to let a contract for works to improve the qualities of grass areas surrounding the airport runway.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That a contract should be let to D M Carnegie, agricultural contractors, of Laurencekirk at a value of £16,872.50.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of these works will be covered by a grant from the Scottish Executive.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 Grass areas in proximity to airport runways are required by the Civil Aviation Authority to achieve certain specified characteristics for reasons of aircraft safety, and the grass areas included within the designated limits are extensive. Due to its origins as land infilled from the estuary, the grass areas at Dundee Airport require works to deal with settlement and drainage, and to protect a number of concrete bases of equipment located in these grass areas. An agreement was reached with the Civil Aviation Authority on the deferment of these works so that they could be commenced in the summer of 2007.
- 6.2 It is now proposed that a contract should be let for the first phase of such work. The work itself comprises rough grassland improvement that partially needs to be implemented in the evenings/overnight at weekends. Some trees on the airport that have grown to unacceptable heights will also be removed. Given the characteristics of the job it is suited to a substantial agricultural contractor with heavy duty equipment. D M Carnegie of Laurencekirk won the original competitive tender for grass area improvements in 2005 and carried out subsequent works in 2006. It is therefore being recommended that the contract for the first-phase 2007 programme be awarded directly to D M Carnegie, because this firm has built up important experience in, and demonstrated good adherence to, safe working practice in close proximity to an operational runway. It has also achieved excellent results in previous years and demonstrated a willingness to work very late weekend hours at reasonable cost.
- 6.3 The itemised offer received for the specified works was £16,872.50, which is considered to be an advantageous price. However because of the difficulty of predicting quantities of topsoil and crushed stone needed in work of this nature is recommended that a contingency allowance should be included to permit Council Officers to approve the use of additional materials if required by experience on site. It is therefore recommended that expenditure of up to £20,000 should be authorised without further recourse to the Committee, if it should prove necessary.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Head of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

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DATE: 4TH JUNE 2007