

REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 12TH NOVEMBER 2007

REPORT ON: REFURBISHMENT OF THE AIRPORT HOVERCRAFT

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 562-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request approval for the letting of a contract for the refurbishment of the airport hovercraft.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That a contract should be let to Griffon Hovercraft of Woolston, Southampton for the refurbishment of Dundee Airport's Griffon 375TD Hovercraft

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost can be contained within the airport capital expenditure consent for 2007-08 which is being met by a block grant from the Scottish Executive.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 Dundee Airport provides and operates a Griffon 375TD hovercraft for the purpose of meeting its obligation to provide a rescue service out to 1000 metres from the airport runway, much of which comprises inter-tidal water and mud. The hovercraft was bought new in 1998-99.
- 4.2 This craft recently suffered a major failure of its lift-fan bearing, with resulting damage to other major components. As a result it requires substantial repairs which will involve extensive replacement of major components and repairs to the bodywork. Given that the craft has now had eight years of robust use, and will need to be sent back to the manufacturer for the required repairs to be undertaken, it would appropriate for a substantial overall refurbishment also to be carried out while the craft is in Southampton, with a view to extending its service life and operational reliability.
- 4.3 The estimated cost of the work is £11,000, however it could be anticipated that the strip-down of the craft at Southampton will result in recommendations by the manufacturer for the replacement and refurbishment of components that cannot be checked by superficial inspection. It is therefore recommended that the offer from Griffon Hovercraft should be accepted, but that Council officers should, if necessary, be authorised to approve additional works of up to £3,000 without further reference to the Committee.
- 4.4 The work is regarded as urgent with a view to getting the craft back into service as soon as possible, and can only be done by the original manufacturer.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.
- 5.2 There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

DOUGLAS A A GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 5TH NOVEMBER 2007