

REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 17TH APRIL 2006
REPORT ON: CONSTRUCTION OF A FIRE TRAINING GROUND AT DUNDEE AIRPORT
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
REPORT NO.: 233-2006

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the second phase of construction of a Fire Training Ground at Dundee Airport, the first phase of which was approved by the Committee on 15th August 2005.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Committee should now approve the second phase of this scheme involving a contract for the manufacture and installation of a fire training rig, plus further ground works and service installations. At its August 2005 meeting, the Committee approved a Partnership with Tayside Contracts to implement the ground preparation and services stage of this project and the first phase of these works was completed in Financial Year 2005-06, involving site formation, ducting, and fencing.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Airport Capital programme for 2006-07 contains an allowance of £320,000 for this second phase of scheme, inclusive of professional fees.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This project has been developed in consultation with SEPA, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Planning Authority and is acceptable to these bodies.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6 REPORT

6.1 In order to maintain their skills, the Rescue and Fire Fighting Staff of Dundee Airport are required to train with real fire situations at least four times each year. This is known as "Hot Fire-Training." Because Dundee Airport does not have a training rig that can simulate aircraft fires, all RFFS personnel have to go to Aberdeen Airport four times each year, at considerable expense to the airport budget and with a lot of disruption to staffing patterns.

6.2 In any event the CAA Fire Inspector is only prepared to accept the absence of a fire training rig at Dundee Airport as an interim situation. It is required that such a rig is provided at Dundee, with a target date of completion during Financial Year 2006-07 being acceptable to the Inspector. The proposed programme will achieve completion by Christmas 2006.

- 6.3 Great care has been taken to develop an environmentally friendly solution. The proposed Hot Fire Training facility will only use propane gas fires for its simulations, so there will be no smoke, and the fire fighters will only use water for simulated fire fighting, and thus there will be no chemical damage to the environment. The fire training rig will also be equipped with high pressure water spray capabilities to control excess heat. Environmentally friendly training foams for airports are under development, but these will only be considered for use if and when agreed by SEPA and SNH.
- 6.4 The site now formed for this facility is at the extreme south-west corner of Dundee Airport on land adjacent to the shore and is likely, on average, to be used for training exercises about three times a month, during which flames and steam will be visible on perhaps four cycles of one or two minutes each. An entire hot fire-training exercise might last 30 minutes. Given that the site lies down behind the substantial tree belts at the south end of Wright Avenue the implications for local residents in terms of visual impact are expected to be negligible, and there will be no pollution or significant noise.
- 6.5 Two specialist companies were invited to tender for the manufacture of a 20 metre long propane fuelled fire training rig for Dundee Airport, which will simulate ten different fire scenarios for a wide range of aircraft. The tenders received, were as follows:-
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| Simulation TERS Ltd., Burton on Trent: | £168,300 |
| Kidde Fire Trainers GmbH, Chesterfield | £194,562 |
- 6.7 It is accordingly recommended that the contract should be awarded to the lowest tenderer, namely Simulation TERS Ltd, Briggs Business Centre, Derby Street, Burton on Trent. Written references from other airports have been provided for this company and they are all favourable.
- 6.8 It is also recommended that, within the Partnership arrangement already agreed, Tayside Contracts should be given approval to continue with the complex site works and services required for the installation of the rig, within the overall limit of £320,000 allocated for this project during 2006-07, which allowance includes the cost of the contract to be awarded to Simulation TERS Ltd.

7 CONSULTATIONS

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

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

DOUGLAS A A GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 10TH APRIL 2006