

**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 25TH JUNE 2007**

**REPORT ON: PURCHASE OF A LIFERAFT FOR THE AIRPORT HOVERCRAFT**

**REPORT BY: THE DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**REPORT NO: 338-2007**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To request approval for the letting of a contract to acquire a liferaft for the airport hovercraft.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That a contract should be let to Cosalt-Sea Dog of Leith, Edinburgh, for the supply of a 7 Person Heliraft Type 2 at a cost of £4,365.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The cost will be met by a capital 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 The airport operates a rescue hovercraft to meet its obligation to respond to incidents occurring in the immediate area of the Tay Estuary abutting the airport. The main way in which that hovercraft meets its task is by being able to deploy an inflatable liferaft at the location of any incident. The liferafts currently held for that purpose are subject to regular major overhauls and tests and continue to meet all required standards, but they are nearing the end of their reasonable lives and should be replaced in good time.

6.2 A review of operational experience has also shown that a reduction in the weight of the liferafts would result in an improved rescue response by the hovercraft. Thus it is now being recommended that a small lightweight liferaft should be purchased, which would enable the hovercraft to perform more effectively in incidents involving small numbers of people. This would be in addition to a larger lightweight liferaft at immediate readiness to be deployed to any incident involving larger numbers of people. Highlands and Islands Airports considers that it may have a suitable large lightweight liferaft that it could provide for Dundee's needs, and this is being investigated.

6.3 Meantime it is proposed that a new small lightweight raft should be purchased from Cosalt-Sea Dog of Leith at a cost of £4365. In the event that Highlands and Islands Airports is not able to source a suitable large liferaft then a further report for the purchase of a large liferaft will be submitted to the Committee. It is also requested that than additional sum of £2,000 should be approved for the design and manufacture of a new lightweight raft mounting for installation on the hovercraft itself, and for the acquisition of secure and weatherproof readiness containers for the stowage of backup liferafts and other equipment at the best location on the airport for quick changes of rescue configuration in the event of an incident.

6.4 Cosalt-Sea Dog is being recommended as the sole supplier because of the very specialised nature of this purchase and because it is the only fully approved liferaft maintenance organisation within reasonable reach of Dundee Airport.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Head of Finance have been consulted.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None

**DOUGLAS A A GRIMMOND  
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**DATE: 19TH JUNE 2007**