

**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 12TH SEPTEMBER 2005**  
**REPORT ON: CONSTRUCTION OF A FIRE TRAINING GROUND AT DUNDEE AIRPORT**  
**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
**REPORT NO.: 466-2005**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to proceed with the first phase of construction of a Fire Training Ground at Dundee Airport.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the Committee should approve a Partnership with Tayside Contracts to implement the ground preparation and services stage of this project at a target cost of £255,000 in Financial Year 2005-06.

**3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The approved Airport Capital programme for 2005-06 contains an allowance of £225,000 for this project, inclusive of professional fees. The Capital programme for 2006-07 includes a further provisional sum of £225,000 for the second phase of this project.

**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 2006-07 being acceptable to the Inspector.

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 proposed site 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 In addition to the revenue savings resulting from an ability to carry out all fire training at Dundee, this facility will ease staffing availability at the airport.

6.6 This initial phase of the project only involves site preparation and the installation of services. The fire training rig itself will be procured from one of two UK manufacturers, and technical and financial appraisals of the merits of each have commenced with a view to a supplier being recommended to the Committee later this year.

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.

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**DATE: 5TH SEPTEMBER 2005**