

REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 16TH AUGUST 2004

REPORT ON: PURCHASE OF TRACTOR AND GRASS CUTTING MACHINERY FOR DUNDEE AIRPORT

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO.: 550-2004

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To report the tenders for a tractor and grass cutting equipment for Dundee Airport, and to request approval for the letting of contracts to the lowest tenderers.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That a contract should be let to I. A. & E. R. Laird, of Dalziel, Justinhaugh, Forfar for the supply of a Landini DT 135D tractor, at a cost of £29,457, inclusive of front linkage mechanism and high flotation tyres. The offer includes both servicing a full warranty for 2 years, and all required staff training.
- 2.2. That a further contract should be let to Agricar Ltd. of 6 Lochside Road, Forfar for the supply of a McConnell SR 20 flex wing mower, at a cost of £10,950. The offer includes a 12-month warranty and staff training.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. The total cost of £40,407 is provided for within the Dundee Airport Capital Plan for 2004-05. Savings in grass cutting costs should accrue from 2005-06 as a result of this purchase.

4. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. None.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. None.

6. REPORT

- 6.1. The maintenance of Dundee Airport places high demands upon the use of tractors for winter maintenance, grass cutting and the towing of apron equipment. In severe winter conditions three tractors must be simultaneously available for duty if the airport is to be able to operate reliably. One of the three tractors in the current fleet is beyond economical repair due to its age. The tractor fleet as a whole is also underpowered for the tasks that have to be performed, and lacks sufficient four-wheel-drive capability for work on soft ground, snow and the mud of the hovercraft ramp.
- 6.2. A second key issue relates to the time and cost involved in the cutting of grass on rough ground at the airport. Up to the present this has partly been done by external contract and partly by airport staff using machinery owned by the airport. However contract cutting is expensive, and cutting by the airport is very demanding in staff time and inefficient because the present grass cutting equipment and existing tractor power are not up-to-the-job of cutting heavy grass growth on ground which is alternately rough and soft.

- 6.3. It is therefore proposed to buy a powerful modern tractor and specialised rough-ground mowing equipment, which will enable airport grass to be better cut, more often, and with less demands on staff time. Contract grass maintenance will also be reduced with consequent revenue cost savings. Improved grass cutting will also repress the growth of plant species that encourage birds to visit the airport, and thereby reduce the amount bird scaring required to maintain a high standard of airport bird safety. The new tractor will also provide important improved capabilities in snow clearing and hovercraft recovery.
- 6.4. Six suppliers of tractors and grass cutting equipment expressed an interest in tendering. Three offers were received as follows:

Tractors:

I.A. & E. R. Laird of Justinhaugh, Forfar: A Landini DT 135 D	£27,732
Agricar Ltd, of Lochside Road, Forfar: A New Holland TM 140 Classic	£32,750
A.M. Phillip Ltd., of Muiryfaulds, Forfar: A JCB Fastrac 2140	£45,000

For comparability, the tender prices have been adjusted to include the fitting of high-flotation tyres, for soft ground operations. The recommended acceptance also includes an additional piece of equipment, called a front linkage, at a cost of £1,725. The lowest offer also carries the best warranty/servicing offer and the shortest delivery time.

Cutting Equipment:

Agricar Ltd, of Lochside Road, Forfar: A McConnel SR 20	£10,950
A.M. Phillip Ltd., of Muiryfaulds, Forfar: A Bamford Cutlass 600	£12,095
I.A. & E. R. Laird of Justinhaugh, Forfar: A Spearhead 620	£13,655

Acceptance of the lowest offer is recommended for both the tractor and the cutting equipment:

Tenders were not returned by Fife Tractors, Netherton Tractors, and Marrs of Burrelton.

7 CONSULTATIONS

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

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

DOUGLAS A A GRIMMOND
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DATE: 9TH AUGUST 2004