

REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 12TH NOVEMBER 2001
REPORT ON: REPLACEMENT OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT AT DUNDEE AIRPORT
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
REPORT NO.: 700-2001

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the letting of a contract for replacement Air Traffic Control Recording Equipment for Dundee Airport

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. It is recommended that a contract should be let to Sinclair Voicenet Limited, of East Kilbride, for the supply of a Racal Wordnet Series 2 Recording System at a cost of £11,962. The cost includes installation and staff training.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1. The cost can be accommodated within the current approved allocation for Airport Capital Expenditure in 2001-02. There are no staffing or other cost implications.

4. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1. None

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1. None

6. REPORT

6.1. The Air Traffic Control Service at Dundee Airport is required to record all communications, for the purposes of safety monitoring. These recordings then have to be retained for an extended period. At the present time the recording system employs special magnetic tapes and very expensive tape recorders that inject the time onto the tape, carry out automatic changeover, and provide fault warnings. Because this equipment is in constant use it does not have a long life and the complex tape mechanisms are fault prone.

6.2. The current recording system has reached an age at which it is becoming unreliable and causing increasing repair bills.

6.3. Technology has now reached the stage at which digital recording systems are a feasible alternative, and it is therefore proposed to acquire a system that will record airport communications onto a computer that is fitted with back-up systems. The proposed system is not significantly different in price from the 'old-technology' tape-recorder that would have been the alternative replacement. However the old system would have needed significant quantities of expensive specialised recording tapes, and regular replacements. The new system avoids these costs, and can also be expected to be more reliable because it does not involve electric motors and complex mechanical systems.

6.4. This project has not been put to competitive tender because the recommended purchase is of the only such electronic system that has yet received C.A.A. approval.

7. CONSULTATIONS

7.1. The Chief Executive and the Directors of Support Services and Finance have been consulted on the terms of this report.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1. No background papers, as defined in Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.....Date.....