

REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 12TH NOVEMBER 2001
REPORT ON: DUNDEE AIRPORT: FLIGHT CATERING MANUAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
REPORT NO.: 701-2001

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for offers to carry out works and supply equipment to facilitate the manual handling of goods by the Flight Catering Unit at Dundee Airport.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that a contract for the installation of a vehicle tail-lift on an existing Council vehicle should be let to Keillor Coachbuilders of Bucklershead, Kellas, by Dundee, at a cost of £2,808 plus V.A.T. and that a separate contract for the supply and modification of a pedestrian controlled straddle-stacker should be let to Tayside Lift Trucks at a cost of £11,175 plus V.A.T. The total expenditure for which approval is requested is £14,500, including the estimated cost of installing a 3-Phase Battery Charging Point for the Straddle Stacker.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1. The overall cost of £14,500 for these works lies well within the provision of £25,000 for these purposes that was included in the Airport Capital Plan for 2001-02. Capital Allocation for these works is available.

4. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1. This expenditure does not have any Local Agenda 21 implications.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1. The proposed expenditure has positive implications for equal opportunities in that it will eliminate the manual lifting of catering trolleys and supplies, and thereby remove the requirement for individual physical strength in the performance of this task. There will also be substantial health and safety benefits to airport staff through the reduction of heavy lifting.

6. REPORT

6.1 Within the terms of Report 78-2001, this Committee on 12th February, 2001 approved, among other projects, the expenditure of £25,000 on the acquisition of a specialist vehicle to deal with the loading and unloading aspects of aircraft catering. The anticipated benefits include the elimination of heavy-lifting and an improvement in staff efficiency, by avoiding the need for Fire and Rescue personnel to provide heavy-lifting support to the Catering service.

6.2 A detailed investigation of conventional flight-catering support vehicles however proved them all to be too expensive, and in most cases, unnecessarily complex for the needs of Dundee Airport. Council staff therefore undertook a joint study with Tayside Lift Trucks to develop a solution that would meet the needs of Dundee Airport. The answer that eventually emerged involves the conversion of a battery powered lifting unit known as a straddle stacker. This solution could prove to be the basis of a new product that might be offered to meet similar airport requirements elsewhere. As a complement to the straddle stacker it will be necessary to fit the

Flight Catering Unit's van with a tail-lift, to deal with the lifting of heavy items at the flight kitchen door as the straddle stacker will only operate on the airport apron.

6.3 The prospective cost of a conventional flight-catering vehicle to carry out all of the required functions would certainly have exceeded £30,000, and this proposal therefore represents a saving of £15,000 or more.

6.4 Tender documents for the supply and fitting of a tail-lift to the van were issued to four companies and two offers were received as follows:-

Keillor Coachbuilders Ltd, Bucklershead, Kellas	£2,808.00 plus V.A.T.
Commercial Body Care, 34 Dronley Road, Birkhill	£3,819.90 plus V.A.T.

6.5 Both of the reported offers include the optional addition of a re-start battery protector, to avoid the complete draining of the battery during the operation of the electric lift. It is recommended that the lowest offer should be accepted.

6.6 It is proposed to award the contract for the Straddle Stacker and its conversion directly to Tayside Lift Trucks because of the specialist knowledge that the company has gained during the development of this solution.

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 DEVELOPMENTDate.....