

REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 14TH JUNE 2004
REPORT ON: DUNDEE AIRPORT – IMPROVEMENT TO AIRPORT GRASSLAND
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
REPORT NO: 435-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report requests approval to accept an offer for works to improve the grassland at Dundee Airport

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Acceptance is recommended of an offer from D M Carnegie, Agricultural Contractor, of Steelstrath, Laurencekirk, to carry out specified works to improve ground conditions and plant cover within the grassland areas of Dundee Airport, at a cost of £15,600. This basic price may need to be complemented by additional works, -with rates having been quoted for specified quantities, if this should prove necessary to deal with localised ground conditions that will only become visible when existing vegetation has been stripped. It is recommended that approval is given to accept the basic offer as described above, but also to allow the officers to agree extensions of the work and cost if necessary, to a total of £21,000, including fees.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Capital Expenditure Consent for these works is available within provision made in the Airport Capital Programme 2004/5, as approved by the Economic Development Committee on 19th April 2004.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This project will result in the reduction of food sources and roosting opportunities for birds within the curtilage of Dundee Airport. However this increased natural discouragement of bird presence on the airport should reduce the need to employ bird-scaring technology to maintain the safe separation of birds and aircraft, which will be less stressful for the birds and the local noise environment. The overall balance of effects on the bird population should therefore be fairly neutral, - while maintaining the primacy of aircraft safety on this site.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6.0 REPORT

6.1 The grassland area within Dundee Airport has been subject to uneven settlement due to its recent origin as reclaimed land. It has also experienced natural (*eg windblown*) seeding of wild plant species that are attractive food sources for birds. In order to maintain a high level of bird safety on the airport it is now desirable that action is taken to remove certain plant species from the airport, and to improve ground conditions so that a more effective regime of grass cutting can be implemented. A second phase of this project will involve the purchase of more powerful grass cutting equipment and it is expected that tenders for this will be reported to the August 2004 Committee meeting.

6.2 The works now recommended for approval require special capability in terms of heavy agricultural equipment and civil engineering, - and special expertise in the economical improvement of rough ground. Due to the lack of in-house expertise in this specialised task it was considered that those submitting offers for the work should themselves recommend the final content of the work that ought to be done to meet the desired objectives.

6.3 Organisations with these combined qualifications were difficult to identify and formal tenders on a directly price-comparable basis were not possible because the content of the proposals would vary. The Chief Executive's agreement was therefore sought to proceed on the basis of written quotations. Three organisations were identified as being likely to be able to meet the requirement, and they were invited to submit priced proposals that would achieve the desired outcome.

6.4 Only one offer was received, from D M Carnegie of Steelstrath, Laurencekirk, and it is recommended that this offer should be accepted.

7.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

7.1 The Chief Executive and Depute Chief Executive (Finance) have been consulted on the terms of this report.

8.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 No background papers, as defined by 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.

DOUGLAS A A GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 7TH JUNE 2004