

REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 9TH DECEMBER 2002

REPORT ON: THE REPLACEMENT OF DUNDEE AIRPORT RADIOS AND AERIALS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO.: 859-2002

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the first phase of the replacement of Dundee Airport's main and standby radio installations and their aerials.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That a contract should be let to *National Air Traffic Services* for the supply and installation of transmitter/receiver radios for Dundee Airport and the supply and installation of replacement aerials

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The first phase of this project will cost £37,200, to be sourced from the Dundee Airport Capital Expenditure Consent for 2002-03. The cost can be accommodated within the Minor Works element of the programme. The second phase, to be reported at a late date when resources are available, will cost approximately £12,000.

4. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6. IMPACT ON ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

- 6.1 None.

7. REPORT

- 7.1 International requirements have been set for the modification, or replacement, of VHF radio transmitters, by compressing the bandwidth of their signals to one-third of what it was previously. This measure has been introduced to reduce congestion on the radio communication network.
- 7.2 Dundee Airport has new contractors for the maintenance of its electronic systems, namely *National Air Traffic Services*, which is the main contractor for the provision of such services to airports throughout Scotland. They have advised that the best course of action for Dundee Airport to take in order to conform with the new requirements will be to replace the current main and standby airport radios, and their aerial systems. The reasons for this recommendation are firstly that the current sets are nearing the end of their lives and secondly that NATS would propose to supply standardised models that could more easily, and rapidly, be repaired from a common spares stock, when faults occur.

- 7.3 Resources have become available within the Airport Capital Programme, to carry out the first phase of this work in the current financial year as the result of final payment on another completed airport project being delayed into FY 2003-04 because of an extended contractual dispute.
- 7.4 It is therefore recommended that radio replacement should be commenced at this time, to enable Dundee Airport to comply easily with the new bandwidths, to improve the performance of the standby radio and to increase the efficiency of radio maintenance.
- 7.5 The opportunity to will be taken to rationalise the radio installations used by Dundee Airport so that, by the end of the second phase of work, both the main and standby radios will be housed in Tayside House and provided with upgraded aerials, and with duplicated lines to the airport. The standby radio is currently located at the airport where, because of the high ground to the north, its coverage is less than ideal. Relocation to Tayside House will bring it to the same performance standard as the main set.
- 7.6 It is recommended that the contract should be awarded to National Air Traffic Services without recourse to competitive tender, because NATS is our maintenance contractor, because it will supply standardised sets that are in conformity with the replacement programme for other Scottish airports, and because repairs under guarantee will be much more easily achieved if the supplier is also our maintenance organisation.
- 7.7 The value of the contract that it is now proposed to let to National Air Traffic Services is £37,200. The contract is on a turnkey basis including all fees and Civil Aviation Authority documentation.

8. **CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 The Chief Executive and the Director of Finance have been consulted on the terms of this report.

9. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 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.

DOUGLAS A A GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 28TH NOVEMBER 2002