

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

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| Report to: | Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration |
| Relevant Officer: | Mark Harrison – Project Manager: Enterprise Zone and Blackpool Airport – Growth and Prosperity Team, Communications and Regeneration Directorate |
| Relevant Cabinet Member | Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation |
| Implementation Date of Decision | 7 March 2023 |

WSP PROJECT INSTRUCTION #006 – ATC TOWER RELOCATION

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To seek instruction to authorise WSP to undertake a feasibility report/study in respect of the existing Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower and suitable locations for the development of a new ATC facility.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To note the contents of the report.
- 2.2 To confirm agreement to approve the instruction to WSP.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 A replacement for the Air Traffic Control facility at Blackpool Airport is required within the next few years in accordance with the approved Enterprise Zone delivery and masterplans to maximise future development potential

The existing ATC control tower is over 70 years old and in deteriorating condition and will be unable to continue in operation for many more years without substantial refurbishment works being undertaken which would require the temporary closure of the airport to undertake.

An assessment of options including a switch to new digital technology has been undertaken by consultants THINK on behalf of Blackpool Airport and their preferred option for provision of a new control tower has been approved by the board of Blackpool Airport Operations Limited.

To enable the airport operational masterplan to be completed and the final design of proposed solar PV arrays at the airport, it is now necessary to identify potential locations for a new control tower which satisfy CAA safety and operational requirements.

In July 2022 WSP were appointed as engineering consultants for the airport after a competitive tender process, they have the necessary technical expertise and experience to undertake an assessment and make recommendations in respect of allocation for a new control tower.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None. In order to fulfil the delivery of the Enterprise Zone and Airport a feasibility report with regards to alternative Air Traffic Control locations is required. WSP has been appointed via procurement in order to undertake these technical feasibility reports.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"

6.0 Background information

6.1 WSP were appointed, via procurement, in July 2022 in order to provide assistance and guidance in respect of aviation, engineering and utility issues.

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 A – Think – Discussion Paper on the feasibility of a digital tower for Blackpool Airport
B – WSP Instruction Sheet #006

(both exempt from publication)

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 The cost of the proposed feasibility study is £12,300 + VAT. This is budgeted for within the

approved Enterprise Zone delivery plan allowance for provision of new Air Traffic Control facilities.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 N/A

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 As part of the WSP contract, they are committed to providing a social value (SV) output. Their SV commitments include workshops and training with regards to ESG.

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 To note the contents of the report.

13.2 To confirm agreement to approve the instruction to WSP.

14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

14.1 A replacement for the Air Traffic Control facility at Blackpool Airport is required within the next few years in accordance with the approved Enterprise Zone delivery and masterplans to maximise future development potential

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