

## **PE1804/L**

Dundee City Council submission of 30 October 2020

Dundee City Council works in partnership with Highlands and Islands Airport to ensure the city benefits from the enhanced connectivity delivered by Dundee Airport through existing routes to London City and Belfast City. Alongside these commercial routes the local economy is boosted by the delivery of flight training at Tayside Aviation and the use of the airport for commercial purposes. The potential to expand the number of services the airport offers – commercial and scheduled – is a key element of the City Council's strategic planning and the wider Regional Economic Strategy.

Dundee City Council recognises the need to modernise the air traffic control and associated surveillance equipment/capability across the HIAL network, to ensure the continued delivery of sustainable and reliable air services and that the proposed upgrade of the Air Traffic Management System (ATMS) will deliver these outcomes.

The Council does not think it is necessary for there to be an independent assessment of the decisions and decision-making processes of the proposals currently being developed by HIAL to develop their ATMS. The Council has been engaged in on-going discussions with HIAL since the plans were first mooted and recognises that these plans have been developed based on the best available information; an in-depth analysis of that information; an overview of the installation and use of remote ATMS at other airports; and with the future of sustainable air services at its heart.

The development of a remote ATMS has the potential to deliver wider benefits to Dundee Airport as a result of the need to secure controlled airspace and new surveillance technology as part of the ATMS programme

- ATMS will bring long term security to services, through the installation of surveillance technology/radar, which will make Dundee Airport more attractive to a range of airlines - thus increasing the potential of the airport to attract new routes that will help grow the regional economy.
- The introduction of controlled air space will also make the airport safer, with all flights being controlled by the ATC system.

Dundee City Council understands that there will be no compulsory job losses as a result of the ATMS project, although the loss of skilled jobs in smaller, rural communities will have an economic impact. Whilst Dundee City Council is also reticent to support projects that will lead to the loss of skilled jobs, it is aware that the city's economy is more able to absorb these losses. The proposed developments will be beneficial to Dundee Airport and the opportunity to enhance the safety at Dundee Airport, the new surveillance system will provide, will support greater economic growth than if the changes were not delivered.