

Item: 12

Development and Infrastructure Committee: 11 September 2018.

Civil Aviation Authority – Inspection of Council Airfields.

Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the Aerodrome Audit Report 2018 following the Civil Aviation Authority Inspection of the Council's airfields.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That, following its annual inspection of Council airfields, which took place between 21 to 25 May 2018 and on 27 July 2018, the Civil Aviation Authority has issued the Aerodrome Audit Reports, attached as Appendices 1 and 2 to this report.

2.2.

That the Aerodrome Audit Reports found no Level 1 non-compliance items across the six airfields, but reported four Level 2 non-compliance items, as detailed in section 4.3 of this report.

2.3.

That the observations within the Civil Aviation Authority audit are seen as being part of the Council's drive for continuous improvement whilst maintaining a 100% safety record at the airfields.

3. Background

3.1.

As a Licensee for the north isles airfields, the Council is subject to an annual Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) inspection and audit report. The previous inspection and audit undertaken in 2016, was reported to the Development and Infrastructure Committee on 15 November 2016.

3.2.

Annual Aerodrome inspections, such as the subject of this report, and the closing of remedial actions are a condition of the Aerodrome Operating Licence. Failure to close out remedial actions to an agreed schedule, and/or the issuing of a Level 1 non-compliance creating a significant safety hazard, will result in the withdrawal of

certification and the resultant closure of Orkney Islands Airfields. Level 2 items must be rectified by the date specified in the report. A full definition of the levels of CAA findings can be found on page 6 of the CAA report.

4. Audit Findings

4.1.

The 2018 inspection was undertaken during the period 21 to 25 May 2018. Sanday airfield was fog bound during the planned inspection so a follow-up inspection was carried out on 27 July 2018. The audits were conducted by two new teams of CAA inspectors who will be providing oversight of the airfields in the future.

4.2.

The full CAA audit reports, attached as Appendices 1 and 2 respectively to this report, identify a number of observations which may affect aerodrome safety, for which the inspectorate recommends that the Licence Holder (the Council) considers appropriate remedial action. There were no Category 1 non-compliance items creating a significant safety hazard.

4.3.

Overall the feedback was very positive with the CAA inspectors recognising the commitment of the Council to continuous improvement and to maintain the airfields in a safe, fit for purpose condition. There were four Level 2 non-compliances and seven observations raised in the reports. These have all been addressed by the Airfield Superintendent in conjunction with the Accountable Manager and a response made to the CAA in time for the deadline of 28 August 2018.

4.4.

As part of the Council's ongoing management of the airfield operations it will be necessary to review its Airfields Strategy and Investment Plan during 2019 to address potential upgrades to terminal buildings and rescue equipment associated with off road areas. This will be reported to the Committee in due course.

5. Links to Council Plan

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan strategic priority theme of Connected Communities.

6. Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priority of Strong Communities.

7. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated directly from the noting recommendations to this report.

8. Legal Aspects

Annual aerodrome inspections assist the Council in complying with the requirements of its Aerodrome Operating Licence. There are no legal implications associated directly with the recommendations of this report beyond those associated with compliance with the Aerodrome Operating Licence.

9. Contact Officers

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10. Appendices

Appendix 1: Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Aerodrome Audit Reports (Eday, North Ronaldsay, Papa Westray, Stronsay and Westray).

Appendix 2: Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Aerodrome Audit Reports (Sanday)