

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Strategic Lead, Housing and Employability

Housing and Communities Committee: 14 August 2019

Subject: Glasgow Airport Aircraft Noise Mitigation Trial Initiative

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Housing and Communities Committee approval to develop in partnership with Glasgow Airport a noise mitigation trial initiative in the context of Glasgow Airport's Noise Action Plan.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Housing and Communities Committee:
- (i) agree that the Council should participate in the Glasgow Airport Aircraft Noise Mitigation Trial Initiative including a Council contribution of £96k subject to formal agreement with Glasgow Airport;
 - (ii) note that the trial project will be funded from within the existing HRA capital plan and that officers intend to seek Scottish Government financial contribution to the project which may reduce the Council contribution; and
 - (iii) note that the outcomes of the trial would be reported back to a future Housing and Communities Committee, alongside a number of recommendations for future action.

3. Background

- 3.1 Glasgow Airport published their revised Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 following a period of consultation. The plan sets out how the Airport authorities manage, and where sustainable, reduce the adverse effects of aviation noise. The Noise Action Plan is a requirement of the European Union's Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EU and the Environmental Noise (Scotland) Regulations 2006.
- 3.2 Aviation is not a devolved matter, and as such the UK Government's current aviation policy is set out in the Aviation Policy Framework (APF). The policies set out within the Consultation Response on UK Airspace Policy provide a recent update to some of the policies on aviation noise contained within the APF, and is considered to represent the current UK Government policy. The policy now requires financial assistance to be offered towards the noise insulation of residential properties in the 63dB LAeq, 16h noise contour or above.
- 3.3 In response to the UK Government policy, Glasgow Airport has committed to develop and implement a Noise Insulation Policy within 2019/20 to mitigate noise for residents most affected by aviation noise in line with the policy highlighted in 3.2 of this report. This policy will be developed through

engagement with all key stakeholders, inclusive of West Dunbartonshire Council and local community organisations and will be implemented as part of a range of measures that will be used to minimise and, where practical, reduce the adverse impacts of aircraft/aviation noise.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** While, Glasgow Airport falls outwith the West Dunbartonshire Council boundaries, there has been a long standing community issue within the Whitecrook area of Clydebank in terms of aircraft noise.
- 4.2** In response, the Council and Glasgow Airport authorities have held a series of meetings to develop a partnership response in the context of the Noise Action Plan and the development of the Noise Insulation Policy to assist to alleviate the aircraft noise problems currently experienced by the residents of Whitecrook area in Clydebank. The issue has been the subject of some extensive research by the local MSP which has highlighted the issue nationally, including a recent debate at the Scottish Parliament.
- 4.3** Current UK Government policy within the Aviation Policy Framework (APF) now requires financial assistance to be offered towards the noise insulation of residential properties in the 63dB LAeq,16h noise contour or above. We have mapped the properties within West Dunbartonshire that fall within this qualifying zone.
- 4.4** The qualifying zone in terms of housing is a familiar mixed tenure area, comprising of 563 addresses in total and a combination of social and private housing. In total there are 212 Council homes, 63 in the ownership of Clydebank Housing Association and 313 in private ownership. The large number of Council homes provides a strong justification for the Council to take a more prominent role in attempting to develop a sustainable resolution to this long standing issue.
- 4.5** There is no legal or statutory requirement for the Council to undertake such works. However as a housing provider committed to benefiting the health and wellbeing of our tenants we are keen to maximise this role and provide added value to our tenants. It is worth noting all properties within the area meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) in terms of glazing the Council properties all exceed this through double glazing. Again, in terms of loft insulation all properties meet SHQS standard although within the SHQS this refers to heat rather than sound, no such measure currently exists within the SHQS in terms of sound.
- 4.6** In addition, the research sponsored by the local MSP has generated positive responses from the Scottish Government and Airport authorities and has also suggested a series of actions, some of which relate directly to the Council as the largest housing provider within that area, including looking at introducing a noise insulation element within their renewal programmes.
- 4.7** The Glasgow Airport authorities are also keen to tackle this issue and have engaged with West Dunbartonshire Council and local communities and have committed to working in partnership to develop a suitable response, this

commitment is evidenced in the development of a Noise Mitigation Trial Initiative detailed in 4.8 of this report:-

4.8 Proposal

4.8.1 As a housing provider we are committed to benefiting the health and wellbeing of our tenants, and as such have responded positively to the issue proposed the following trial initiative proposal.

The proposal is that:-

- Jointly develop a trial programme to deliver measures to mitigate the issues with aircraft noise to 12 Council homes in the affected areas within Whitecreek. (addresses have been proposed subject to tenant agreement based on a variety of house type, construction type and size)
- The maximum projected costs in terms of the trial would be £192k (£16k per property). It is proposed both organisations would contribute 50% to the overall funding.
- These costs have assumed the joint procurement of a leading expert in the field to manage the trial on behalf of our collective organisations. The procurement route which requires to be agreed between both parties, however as these are Council homes the Council would take the lead role.
- The full specification of works and ongoing monitoring would be agreed in partnership and this is assumed within the projected costs based on the most recent research available to both parties.
- The purpose of the trial would inform our future response, i.e.; if the measures were deemed successful after a full evaluation, we would develop a phased programme of works in parallel with existing window replacement and insulation programmes

4.8.2 The proposal was received positively by the Glasgow Airport authorities and they have committed their support, inclusive of their financial contribution subject to a formal agreement. If the Housing and Communities Committee is minded to also approve participation, both organisations would be keen to undertake the above proposed trial project.

4.8.3 It is also intention to seek funding from the Scottish Government's Better Homes Division as the learning from the trail initiative will inform future practice across other local authority areas.

4.9 It is anticipated that this project will commence at some point during 2019/20 and that the cost can be accommodated from within the 2019/20 HRA capital budget for targeted SHQS Compliance Works of £200k.

5. People Implications

5.1 It is not anticipated that the proposed initiative will require any changes to current staffing arrangements.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

6.1 The total cost of the Glasgow Airport Aircraft Noise Mitigation Trial Initiative has been estimated at a maximum £192k. Glasgow Airport authorities have committed to meeting 50% of this cost. The Council contribution would be funded from within

the existing HRA capital plan for SHQS works. It is also the intention to seek some funding from the Scottish Government's Better Homes Division as the learning from this trial initiative could be shared with other local authority areas. It is proposed that a joint letter is issued to seek Scottish Government funding.

- 6.2** It is envisaged that the works will be procured following the Council's procurement processes. In such instances all procurement activity carried out in excess of £50,000 is subject to a contract strategy. The contract strategy will be produced by the Corporate Procurement Unit, in close consultation with Consultancy Services and Housing. The contract strategy shall include, but may not be limited to: contract scope, the market, procurement model and routes to market.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** There are risks associated with a trial initiative such as this, that some of the methods explored may not result in positive results, the procurement of external expertise in noise insulation will help alleviate this risk. In addition, one of the key purposes of the initiative is that it will inform future practice and therefore mitigate future risk.

- 7.2** All partnership approaches have an element of risk, and as such it would be prudent on the basis of the joint commitments from both organisations that we formalise the proposal and would seek legal advice to how best this can be achieved.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** An EIA screening has been carried out as part of the development process and it detailed an improved standard would have an entirely positive equalities impact given that the emphasis would be on sustainability.

9. Consultation

- 9.1** There has been extensive consultation between Council officers and elected members with Glasgow Airport authorities in regards the development of the trial initiative.

10. Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** Having considered the Council's strategic priorities, this report contributes significantly to all strategic priorities.

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: Glasgow Airport Noise Action Plan, November 2018

Wards Affected: 6