



An
Bord
Pleanála

Inspector's Report.

Case Ref. No: 04. PC0231

Issue: SID Pre-application – whether project is or is not strategic infrastructure development.

Proposed Development: Road improvement works.

Location: Cork International Airport, Co Cork.

Applicants: DAA Plc.

Planning Authority: Cork County Council.

Inspector: Philip Green.

1.0 Proposed Development.

- 1.1 The DAA plc seek to carry out proposed development in the form of road improvement works at the Cork International Airport. The stated purpose is to facilitate and maintain an efficient traffic management system to allow for a steady flow of customers using the facility. This includes:
- Upgrade of existing internal road including modified traffic layout and upgrading existing signage and bollards
 - Replacement of number of footpaths road surface and line markings
 - Retention of existing taxi holding area and new viewing platform
- 1.2 The details of the proposed works are set out in the supporting letter accompanying the request and illustrated on the submitted drawings.

2.0 Applicant's case.

- 2.1 In 2015 Cork International Airport handled over 2 million passengers making it the State's second busiest airport in terms of passenger numbers after Dublin. The DAA which oversees the Airport is therefore required to enter into pre application discussions.
- 2.2 Due to the numbers of passengers it is necessary to maintain an efficient traffic management system to allow for safe and convenient access for customers. Traffic numbers have resulted in traffic management issues impacting on the airports access and traffic movement network. The will upgrade the internal road and includes modified traffic layout and replacement of signage. To facilitate this a number of footpaths, road surfaces and line markings will be replaced.
- 2.3 The development includes for the retention of the existing unauthorised taxi holding area and a new viewing platform to allow for a more efficient delivery of taxis to the taxi set down area and terminal building.
- 2.4 Development is supported by policies in the Cork County Development Plan 2014, Carragaline Electoral Area LAP 2011 (2nd edition) and Special Local Area Plan for Cork Airport 2010.
- 2.5 Works are not considered strategic in nature and do not provide any new critical infrastructure but rather modifies and upgrades existing infrastructure. The proposed development would not contribute substantially to the fulfilment of objectives in the National Spatial Strategy of the Regional Planning Guidelines as it would not deliver any critical new infrastructure.
- 2.6 The proposed development is small scale in nature and will not have a significant effect on more than one planning authority.

- 2.7 It is not considered that the proposed works are strategic in nature. The application should be made to Cork County Council in the first instance. This is consistent with the Board's previous decision on pre application consultation PC0116 at the airport where the Board determined that the proposed works were not strategic infrastructure.

3.0 Legal Provisions.

- 3.1 Of relevance is the following class of development in the Seventh Schedule inserted into the Planning and Development Act 2000 by section 5 of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006:

Transport Infrastructure

2. Development comprising or for the purposes of any of the following:

An airport (with not less than 2 million instances of passenger use per annum) or any runway, taxiway, pier, car park, terminal or other facility or installation related to it (whether as regards passenger traffic or cargo traffic).

- 3.2 Section 37A(1) says that an application for permission for any development specified in the Seventh Schedule shall, if the following condition is satisfied, be made to the Board under section 37E and not to a planning authority. Section 37A (2) says

That condition is that, following consultation under section 37B, the Board serves on the prospective applicant a notice in writing that, in the opinion of the Board, the proposed development would, if carried out, fall within one or more of the following paragraphs, namely –

- (a) the development would be of strategic economic or social importance to the State or the region in which it would be situate,*
- (b) the development would contribute substantially to the fulfilment of any of the objectives in the National Spatial Strategy or in any regional spatial and economic strategy in force in respect of the area or areas in which it would be situate,*
- (c) the development would have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority.*

4.0 Assessment.

- 4.1 I consider that the proposed development as set out can be classified as a facility or installation associated with an airport with not less than 2 million instances of passenger use per annum. However by virtue of the small-scale nature and extent of the proposed development, located within the boundaries of the existing airport and replacing, amending and upgrading existing ancillary airport roads, traffic and

pedestrian infrastructure I consider that it would not satisfy any of the conditions contained in section 37A (2) (a), (b) or (c) of the Act. Therefore I conclude that this proposed development does not constitute a strategic infrastructure development.

5.0 Recommendation.

5.1 I recommend that the DAA Plc be informed that the proposed development consisting of road improvement works including:

- Upgrade of existing internal road including modified traffic layout and upgrading existing signage and bollards
- Replacement of number of footpaths road surface and line markings
- Retention of existing taxi holding area and new viewing platform

at Cork International Airport, Co. Cork as described on the plans and particulars received by An Bord Pleanala on 6th October 2016 does not fall within one or more of the paragraphs specified in the conditions contained in section 37A (2) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and consequently does not constitute strategic infrastructure development. A planning application should be made in the first instance to Cork County Council.

Philip Green,
Assistant Director of Planning.
14th October 2016