

REPORT TO: PLANNING AND STATUTORY SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 3 JUNE 2008

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC ANALYST, AGRICULTURAL ANALYST AND DEPUTY AGRICULTURAL ANALYSTS

BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The Public Analysts in Aberdeen and Dundee have developed a system of joint working to provide a better service to local authorities they serve and it is necessary to formally appoint Stephen Appleton to act as Public Analyst and Official Agricultural Analyst.

1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section E(28) and E(37) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the functions of Trading Standards and Environmental Health Authorities respectively.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee appoints Stephen Appleton MSc, MChem A, CChem, MRSC to act as a Public Analyst and Official Agricultural Analyst for the Moray Council.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Joint working arrangements have been developed between the Public Analysts in Aberdeen and Dundee to provide an enhanced and more cost effective service to the eight authorities served by both laboratories.

3.2 Norman Michie, Public Analyst and Official Agricultural Analyst retired last year Stephen Appleton, a new Public Analyst employed by Dundee City Council will be the main Public Analyst for the Aberdeen Laboratory and will require to be formally appointed by The Moray Council.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

The provision of an effective and efficient analytical service assists in achieving the aims of the Social and Environmental Programme of the Corporate Development Plan and one of the key aims of the Community Plan to encourage safe, healthy and caring communities.

(b) Policy and Legal

It is a legal requirement in terms of the Food Safety Act 1990 for a local authority to appoint a Public Analyst. A local authority can appoint as many Public Analysts as it wishes. It is a legal requirement for the

local authority to appoint an Agricultural Analyst under the Agriculture Act 1970. This Act only allows the appointment of one Official Agricultural Analyst (which is Norman Michie, Aberdeen Public Analyst). Any others must be appointed as Deputies.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

Financial

The appointment of Stephen Appleton as a Public Analyst and Official Agricultural Analyst for the Moray Council will have no impact on the existing budget for the Public Analyst service.

Risk

There is a risk that a poorer analytical service will be provided if the appointment is not made.

Staffing and Property

None.

(d) Consultations

The Trading Standards Manager has been consulted and concurs with the content of this report.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Committee is asked to appoint Stephen Appleton as a Public Analyst and Official Agricultural Analyst for the Moray Council.**

Author of Report: Donnie Mackay, Environmental Health Manager
Background Papers:
Ref: DM/BDH