

## **LEGIONELLA PREVENTION REGIME - CHANGE IN STRATEGY - HEALTH & SAFETY**

### **Abstract**

This report seeks approval to the provision of supplementary funding from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund, in the sum of £40,000 to cover the cost of interim arrangements whilst changing over to a new water treatment regime for the prevention of outbreaks of legionnaires disease.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committees for their respective interests are recommended to:-

1. note the requirement for an interim changeover water treatment regime for 2001/02 with consequent additional costs,
2. approve the bid for supplementary funding in the sum of £40,000 from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund in 2001/02.

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

The publication of new guidance from the Health & Safety Executive has provided an opportunity to review the water treatment regime adopted for non-housing Council properties and it has been determined that a change in regime is required.

Additional costs have arisen as a consequence of the changeover regime adopted for 2001/02 and the reports seeks supplementary funding from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

The Health and Safety Executive published a new Approved Code of Practice and Guidance "*Legionnaires disease: The control of legionella bacteria in water systems*" on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2000.

Following consideration of the Best Practice contained in this document, and other supporting and associated documents, and consultation with the Council's water treatment contractor it was determined that a change in water treatment regime was needed.

The previous regime was based upon regular water sampling by the water treatment contractor and analysis of water samples by the Public Analyst, based in Dundee, who has tailored his resources to suit this workload.

The new regime is based upon regular water temperature monitoring, and limited water sampling and analysis, and it was considered appropriate to introduce the new regime whilst continuing the old regime to ensure that:-

- there was sufficient proof at the end of the 2001/02 financial year to demonstrate that the new regime was effective and
- the Public Analyst had sufficient time to be able to accommodate the drop in workload resulting from full adoption of the new regime in financial year 2002/03.

The adoption of the revised regime and the interim arrangements took place after the Property Maintenance elements of the respective departmental revenue budgets had been finalised for 2001/02. The water treatment contractor advised that he could contain the costs of the water temperature monitoring within the then contract costs but with the exclusion of all water sampling and analysis costs.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The additional cost for the interim arrangements in 2001/02, at a cost of £40,000, cannot be contained within the Property Maintenance elements of the respective departmental revenue budgets for 2001/02.

It is therefore necessary for supplementary funding to be made available from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund in 2001/02 to meet this additional cost.

The programmes of work detailed in this report can be contained within the provisions of the Property Renewal and Repair Fund for 2001/02.

### **4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no Human Rights Act implications specific to this report.

Any implications, as a consequence of discharging recommendations detailed in this report, will be managed in accordance with the standing procedures and processes established by the Property Services department.

### **5 CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

### **6 CONCLUSION**

The Committees for their respective interests are recommended to note the requirement for an interim changeover water treatment regime in 2001/02 with consequent additional costs and approve the bid for supplementary funding in the sum of £40,000 from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund in 2001/02.

**REFERENCES**

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Report No</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Finance and Information Technology	10 June 1997	678/97	Composite Report on Special and Other Funds
Policy and Resources Committee	10 February 1998	191/98	Special Funds 1997/98 and Beyond - Review
Finance and Information Technology	1 September 1998	922/98	Strategic Review of Renewal and Repair Funds.
Personnel and Property Services	13 March 2001	322/01	Replacement of thermostatic mixing valves and other remedial measures Phase 1 - Health & Safety
Finance and Information Technology			

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

M G Lunny  
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