

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Decision Making Session Portfolio Holder (Resources) and Portfolio Holder (Customers, Workforce and Partnerships) Decision Making Session

Date of Decision 25 February 2010

Report Title Revenue Funded Purchase of Mass Comparator

Summary This report seeks Portfolio Holder approval to add the project to the 2009/10 Capital Programme to purchase a replacement Mass Comparator to provide Statutory Metrology and Calibration Services for the Trading Standards Service.

For further information please contact Janet Faulkner Trading Standards Group Manager Tel. 01926 418687 janetfaulkner@warwickshire.gov.uk

Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No

Background Papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

Other Committees []

Local Member(s) (With brief comments, if appropriate) []

Other Elected Members [X] Councillor J Appleton Councillor R Chattaway Councillor C Davis Councillor M Gittus Councillor B Moss } for information

Cabinet Member (Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member) [X] Councillor M Heatley Councillor H Timms Councillor R Hobbs – for information

- Chief Executive
- Legal I Marriott – agreed.
- Finance V Barnard – agreed.
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION **YES** *(If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)*

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

**Portfolio Holder (Resources) and Portfolio Holder
(Customers, Workforce and Partnerships)
Decision Making Session - 25 February 2010**

Revenue Funded Purchase of Mass Comparator

**Report of the Strategic Director for
Environment and Economy**

Recommendation

That the project to purchase a replacement Mass Comparator to provide Statutory Metrology and Calibration Services for the Trading Standards Service be included in the 2009/10 Capital Programme at an estimated cost £13,000 to be funded entirely from the revenue budget.

1. Introduction

1.1 Portfolio Holders are authorised to approve projects for addition to the capital programme provided they cost less than £1.5 million and are fully funded from external grants, developer contributions, or from revenue.

2. Mass Comparator

2.1 Trading Standards authorities maintain a range of weights and measures enabling them to check various pieces of weighing and measuring equipment used by local businesses. The weights and measures used by Trading Standards authorities are required to be calibrated on a periodic basis to ensure their accuracy. Similarly, many businesses have their own weighing and measuring equipment which requires regular calibration.

2.2 Warwickshire Trading Standards maintains "local standard" weights. These are very accurate weights which have been calibrated against national standards maintained by the National Weights and Measures Laboratory. Weights to be calibrated are compared against our "local standard" weights using a piece of precision equipment called a mass comparator.

2.3 Warwickshire Trading Standards uses mass comparators to calibrate the weights used by our own Trading Standards Officers, which saves us the expense of having to pay another laboratory for this service. We are also under contract to calibrate the weights of three other local Trading Standards authorities, which generates income. Mass comparators are also used to calibrate weights for our business customers, which again generates income.

- 2.4 The revenue funded purchase of a replacement Mass Comparator for the Trading Standards service is required to be able to continue to directly carry out statutory metrology and calibration, and Portfolio Holders are asked to approve its inclusion in the capital programme for 2009/10.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 Although the cost will present a revenue budget pressure, without the replacement equipment the service would face increased costs due to having to pay for statutory work to be carried out elsewhere and reduced income as fee earning work could no longer be undertaken. Therefore the purchase should be considered as a case of spending to save.

PAUL GALLAND
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

10 February 2010