

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 14 SEPTEMBER 2005

SCOTTISH WATER ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT 2004

Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the publication of the Annual Water Quality report 2004 by Scottish Water and to highlight details of the report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Scottish Water was created in 2002 and is one of the largest water providers in the UK.
- 2.2 Scottish Water is divided into four operational areas, North West, North East, South West and South East all with varying numbers of water treatment works.
- 2.3 The water quality data provided in the report represents the first full year of sampling and analysis carried out under the Water Supply (Water Quality) (Scotland) Regulations 2001 and therefore represents Scottish Water's baseline performance against the new regulations which came into full effect in December 2003.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The report highlights the significant projects which led to improvements to several water treatment works throughout Scotland. Of some note is that works at Afton Water Treatment Works was substantially completed in December 2004 at a cost of £3m.
- 3.2 During 2004, 334,046 tests were carried out on water samples taken from water treatment works, service reservoirs and customers' taps by Scottish Water.
- 3.3 The overall compliance with microbiological and chemical standards of the water samples taken was 99.57% which represents a continuous improvement since the inception of Scottish Water.
- 3.4 Parameters monitored for microbiological quality from treatment works, service reservoirs and customers' taps are for total faecal coliform analysis.

- 3.5 Parameters monitored for physical and chemical quality from customers' taps include colour, aluminium, iron, manganese, lead and turbidity.
- 3.6 Details of the water quality analysis relative to microbiological analysis indicate that no significant instances were recorded as a problem in the East Ayrshire area. Areas in Glasgow are highlighted as a problem which is currently receiving attention by the construction of a new works.
- 3.7 Details of the physico-chemical analysis relative to water quality indicate that no significant instances were recorded in the East Ayrshire area relative to any of the parameters although other areas in Scotland had perceived failures during the year.
- 3.8 There are no Authorised Departures from the recognised standards for water quality within East Ayrshire.
- 3.9 No water quality incidents were recorded for East Ayrshire during the reporting period.
- 3.10 All water quality failures are notified formally to the Scottish Executive, the Consultant in Public Health Medicine and the local authority affected.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Nil

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Water quality relative to the sampling carried out by Scottish Water is carried out in terms of the Water Supply (Water Quality) (Scotland) Regulations 2001.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The provisions of the report are in line with improving and safeguarding public health in Scotland and support the principles of the Community Plan regarding health.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Scottish Water has published its Annual Water Quality Report for 2004 which represents its first full year of highlighting its performance against the various water quality parameters contained in the Water Supply (Water Quality)(Scotland) Regulations 2001.

- 7.2 Indications are that compliance with microbiological and physico-chemical parameters for water quality is high with areas of concern in some parts of Scotland receiving attention.
- 7.3 No water quality incidents or departures from the standards were noted in the report relative to East Ayrshire.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Committee are recommended to:-
- (i) note the compliance level with the water quality standards of samples undertaken by Scottish Water from water treatment works, service reservoirs and customer taps is 99.57% compliance;
 - (ii) note that no water quality incidents are noted in the report relative to East Ayrshire; and
 - (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/PLT/SMcD

22 August 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Scottish Water: Annual Water Quality Report 2004.

Anyone wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should contact John F Crawford on 01563 576111.

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