

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

LEASE OF SALT BARN & WEIGHBRIDGE FOR GAUCHALLAND DEPOT, GALSTON

Report By Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Committee approval to lease a salt barn and weighbridge for Gauchalland Depot, Galston.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 26 May 1998 the Committee approved the lease of a salt barn for the Underwood Depot, Cumnock.
- 2.2 No such facility exists at the Gauchalland Depot, Galston, where the salt is currently stored outside.
- 2.3 A salt barn would keep the salt dry, preventing losses through leaching which can waste up to 7% of the salt. It would also prevent coagulation of the salt which causes difficulties in handling and controlling the rate of spread, and can result in up to 18% extra salt being needlessly applied.
- 2.4 The control and management of salt usage currently relies largely on guesswork regarding the amount of salt loaded onto the gritters and the amount remaining at the end of a gritting run.
- 2.5 A weighbridge would allow accurate monitoring of salt usage. This would enable better management of the salt by giving up to date information on amounts used rates of spread and coverage. It would also allow accurate allocation of costs to trunk or council routes as appropriate.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 It is proposed to lease a salt barn and weighbridge for Gauchalland Depot, Galston to keep the salt dry and allow accurate control over salt usage.
- 3.2 The specification of the barn (which will be similar to the one successfully installed at Underwood Depot, Cumnock), and the weighbridge, will be drawn up by the Head of Roads & Transportation.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The combined value of the salt barn and weighbridge is £152,000 which can be leased for approx £19,000 per year over a 12 year period. This would be subject to competitive tender.

Most of the annual rental cost would be offset by savings from the reduction in leaching and coagulation leaving a net annual cost of approx £2,500. However further savings should be achieved by more accurate control of salt usage.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Committee is requested to authorise the Director of Development Services to arrange for a salt barn and weighbridge to be leased for the Gauchalland Depot in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

SG/NP
22 May 2000

List of Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Sandy Gillatt on 01563 576310