REPORT TO : **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – 20 December 2004**

REPORT ON : **PURCHASE OF**
(i) GAS CHROMATOGRAPH / MASS SPECTROMETER
(ii) GAS CHROMATOGRAPH with FLAME IONISATION and ELECTRON CAPTURE DETECTORS

REPORT BY : **Scientific Services Manager / Public Analyst**

REPORT NO: **851-2004**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval for Scientific Services to purchase a Gas Chromatograph / Mass Spectrometer and a Gas Chromatograph with Flame Ionisation and Electron Capture Detectors.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The offer from Thermo Electron Limited be accepted.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Depute Chief Executive (Finance) has confirmed that funding costs of £57,247 can be met from Scientific Services operational surplus carried forward from 2003/04.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Purchasing this equipment will assist in ensuring access to good food and water at a reasonable cost.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6 BACKGROUND

6.1 Our present Gas Chromatograph and Gas Chromatograph / Mass Spectrometer systems are between 16 and 22 years old. They use outdated technology and spare parts are becoming extremely difficult to source.

6.2 The proposed new Gas Chromatograph / Mass Spectrometer and Gas Chromatograph with Flame Ionisation and Electron Capture Detectors use auto samplers and cutting edge technology. The use of the auto samplers will release staff time to carry out other work. This new technology will enable the laboratory to expand the range of analysis of additives and contaminants in foods as well as contaminants in water and the environment.

6.3 Tenders were received from five companies and are detailed below.

Thermo Electron Limited, Hemel Hempstead	£57,247
Agilent Technologies Limited, Stockport, Cheshire	£58,535
Shimadzu, Milton Keynes	£61,292
Varian Limited, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey	£63,729
Perkin Elmer LAS (UK) Limited, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire	£56,283

6.4 The regular laboratory maintenance of the Perkin Elmer system is extremely difficult and time-consuming compared with that required for the Thermo Electron system. Also the post warranty maintenance costs for the Perkin Elmer System is 32% more expensive than that of the Thermo Electron System. Taken over a conservative instrument life time of 10 years these extra costs would far outweigh the extra purchase cost of the Thermo Electron system.

For the above reasons, despite not being the cheapest tender, acceptance of the Thermo Electron tender is recommended.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive (Support Services)
Deputy Chief Executive (Finance)

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 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 this report.

James Grant
Scientific Services Manager / Public Analyst