

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>TOURISM, ECONOMY &amp; RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Date of Decision/ Meeting:</b>	14 November 2018

## REPORTING THE USE OF EXTERNAL CONSULTANTS 2017/2018

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the annual report, detailing consultancy spend across all Council services during the 2017/2018 financial year.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note the annual spend paid to external consultants during 2017/2018.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To provide a level of understanding of third party spend paid to external consultants during 2017/2018.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

The report is for information only.

### 4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

### 5.0 Background Information

5.1 At their meeting on 15 December 2016 the Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee confirmed their approval to a revised approach for the reporting of consultancy spend. This annual report sets out details of payments made to

external consultants across the whole Council in 2017/2018 relating to both business and technical services.

5.1.1 The report indicates that a total of **£1,612,199.29** was spent across the Council with external consultants during 2017/18. A detailed analysis is provided at Appendix A.

5.1.2 Compared with the 2016/17 figure of **£2,328,226.07**, the above figure shows a decrease in spend with external consultants.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

## 5.2 **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 9(a) – External Consultants Spend Analysis 2017/18

## 6.0 **Legal considerations:**

6.1 All Council expenditure over £250 is already published as part of Transparency Code requirements and therefore the provision of the data in this format should not breach any data protection requirements.

## 7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None

## 8.0 **Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None

## 9.0 **Financial considerations:**

9.1 The consultancy spend was contained within the 2017/2018 approved budget and in some cases subject to external grant funding.

## 10.0 **Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Due to limited resources and capacity, the Council would be unable to fulfil all of its statutory requirements and deliver its capital programme without the advice and support from external consultants.

10.2 For some projects, the use of consultants is critical, taking the Museum and the Tramway Extension as examples. In both cases, the funding we have received from external agencies requires us to appoint certain experts to ensure the security of the funding. These may be specialists that are recommended by the funders as having

specific skills such as a Heritage Architect or a Heritage Structural Engineer. Because these services are project specific, demand is not constant; employing these experts on a full-time basis would not be cost effective.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 This report has been produced jointly by Internal Audit and the Corporate Procurement and Projects Team.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 Tourism, Economy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – Reporting the Use of External Consultants – December 2016