

Report to:	TOURISM, ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Date of Meeting	10 September 2015

ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANTS OVER 25K MONITORING REPORT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 The Committee to consider the appointment of consultants exceeding £25,000 for the period 1 May 2015 to 31 July 2015 and to consider how monitoring information is presented to Members in future.

2.0 Recommendations:

- 2.1 To note the report making any recommendations as considered appropriate; and
- 2.2 To agree the appropriate arrangements for how monitoring information is presented to Members in future.

3.0 Reasons for recommendations:

- 3.1 To enable Members to monitor the appointment of consultants exceeding £25,000 for the period 1 May 2015 to 31 July 2015 and make recommendations if appropriate.

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:

None.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is

- Deliver quality services through a professional, well-rewarded and motivated workforce

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Following a review by the former Finance and Audit Committee of the Council's arrangements for the appointment and use of consultants, the Executive at its meeting on 23rd June 2010 approved a number of recommendations that were intended to improve the control and monitoring of the use of external consultants and to help the Council to achieve a number of goals outlined in the Community Strategy, including the achievement of value for money.

5.2 The Finance and Audit Committee had requested regular reports in order to monitor all consultancy commissions for compliance with these recommendations. These reports will now be considered by the Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

- all proposed appointments of consultants exceeding £25,000 be reported to the Cabinet Member by the relevant Service Director detailing the nature and business case relating to the appointment in line with corporate priorities.
- in the case of 'long term' projects, progress reports to be submitted to the Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee at six monthly intervals by the relevant Service Director for monitoring against corporate priorities and business cases and to enable post project evaluation.
- The Head of Procurement and Projects to co-ordinate the submission of reports based upon information provided by the relevant officers;

5.3 Report

The Committee is asked to note that all Service Directors have been contacted for information. The Children's Services and Places departments have submitted returns for the appointment of consultants during the period of 1 May 2015 to 31 July 2015 and this return has been attached at Appendix 6(a). All other departments have reported a nil return.

The previous report to the Finance and Audit Committee did not identify any 'long-term appointments', so there is nothing to report for monitoring in this respect.

The next report is due to be submitted on 21 January 2016 and will include a list of any appointments (if applicable) made between 1 August 2015 and 31 October 2015. However, Members are asked to consider the arrangements for how they wish the information to be presented to them in future. An alternative to monitoring reports being presented at Committee meetings for Members to note, could be for reports to be circulated amongst Members outside of a Committee meeting at timely appropriate intervals throughout the year. Should any Member then raise any concern regarding the information they had received, a report allowing for further consideration of the matter could be provided at the next scheduled Committee meeting.

5.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.5 **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 6a: Appointment of Consultants over £25,000.

6.0 **Legal considerations:**

6.1 None.

7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None.

8.0 **Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None.

9.0 **Financial considerations:**

9.1 As outlined in the Report.

10.0 **Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

11.0 **Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.