



POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 8TH JUNE 2010

SUBJECT: SPEND ON CONSULTANCY 2008/09

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 At the request of Members to provide a further report that details spend on Consultants in 2008/09.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report gives details of spend on Consultants in 2008/09. A previous report to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the 3rd March 2009 provided details of spend in 2006/07 and 2007/08. This report is attached as Appendix 2.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Council has a number of corporate strategies and this report deals with the use of resources in the achievement of those strategies.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The spend on 'consultancy' for 2008/09 is broken down in the table below between capital and revenue related spend:-

	£000
Revenue	3,214
Capital	2,643
Total	5,857

As in previous years the coding of expenditure is based on the assumption that budget holders take care to select the most appropriate subjective code. It is still apparent that some spend could only be 'loosely' called Consultancy spend.

- 4.2 The analysis of spend, attached as Appendix 1, identifies those suppliers where spend is in excess of £10k for the financial year 2008/09.
- 4.3 Revenue spend on Consultancy again includes spend on the Authority's Advisory Service ESIS, which is a joint arrangement for Bridgend, RCT, Merthyr and Caerphilly CBC. This along with spend on Gwent Healthcare Trust (funds 12 Health Visitors plus 3.5 others from the Flying Start Grant) and Capita Gwent represents 53% of revenue spend. Spend on Carefirst of £79k is in respect of a counselling service for staff.

4.4 Capital spend on Consultancy needs to be taken in context when compared to the overall spend by the Authority on capital projects. A budget of £67m was available in 2008/09 for capital projects. Included in the Consultancy spend of £2.6m is £1.6m with Capita Gwent Consultancy.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Spend on consultancy fees would normally be planned as part of the budget setting and monitoring process.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The use of consultants for ad hoc work rather than employing in house specialists can be a more effective use of resource.

7. CONSULTATIONS

7.1 Internal consultees are listed below.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 For Members to note the contents of this report.

9. STATUTORY POWER

9.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2003 and the Council's Financial Regulations.

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Councillor John Taylor, Chair – Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee
Councillor M.E. Sargent, Vice-Chair – Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Spend on Consultants 2008/09
Appendix 2 P&R report 03/03/2009 – Consultancy Costs 2006/07 & 2007/08