



POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2ND JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: CONSULTANCY COSTS

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151
OFFICER**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with information in relation to expenditure on consultancy services.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides details of expenditure on consultancy services for the 2012/13 and 2013/14 financial years. Part-year information is also provided for 2014/15.
- 2.2 Details are provided by Directorate with a further split between revenue and capital expenditure.

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 Consultants are engaged to provide specific technical/advisory/professional services to the Authority. These services will often be in relation to the approved Capital Programme or to address a need for specialist services of a short-term nature where there is insufficient capacity within the Council's workforce.
- 4.2 All contracts entered into for consultancy services are subject to the Council's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders for Contracts.
- 4.3 The table overleaf provides a summary of actual expenditure on consultancy services for the 2012/13 and 2013/14 financial years. Part-year information is also provided for the 2014/15 financial year but these figures will increase as the information was collated at the end of February 2015 and final figures will not be confirmed until year-end processes have been concluded.
- 4.4 Members should note that the figures in the table exclude the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Schools.

Summary of Expenditure on Consultancy Services

Directorate	2012/13 Actual £	2013/14 Actual £	2014/15 (Part-Year) £
Revenue Expenditure: -			
Education & Lifelong Learning	95,937	40,461	11,143
Social Services	13,752	516	250
Environment	380,130	433,360	236,981
Corporate Services	13,028	36,280	24,465
Total Revenue: -	502,848	510,616	272,840
Capital Expenditure: -			
Education & Lifelong Learning	66,438	154,302	163,338
Environment	1,194,379	679,019	141,219
Total Capital: -	1,260,817	833,321	304,557
Total Expenditure: -	1,763,665	1,343,937	577,397

- 4.5 Members will note from the above table that expenditure on consultancy services is reducing, much of which is due to a reduced Capital Programme.
- 4.6 To put the revenue expenditure into context the total spend on consultancy services of £502,848 in 2012/13 represents 0.084% of the Council's total gross revenue expenditure for that financial year. The figure of £510,616 for 2013/14 represents 0.085% of total gross revenue expenditure.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report is for information purposes so the Council's Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process does not need to be applied.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As detailed throughout the report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been reflected in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members are asked to note the content of the report.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To ensure that the Scrutiny Committee receives information in relation to expenditure on consultancy services.

11. STATUTORY POWER

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

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