

AUDIT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
25 JANUARY 2021	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Peter Carpenter, Corporate Director Resources	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr David Seaton, Cabinet Member for Finance	
Contact Officer(s):	Peter Carpenter, Corporate Director Resources	Tel. 452520

USE OF CONSULTANTS – UPDATE REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Corporate Director Resources	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that Audit Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> consider the update report on the use of Consultants for the first nine months of 2020/21 (April 2020 - December 2020). 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- This report is submitted to Audit Committee following a referral from Sustainable Growth Committee on 6 March 2012

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- The purpose of this report is to update Audit Committee as to the level of spend on external Consultants.

The report is presented to enable review of the consultancy and interim policy adopted on 26 March 2012.

- This report is for Audit Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No.

- 2.2.1.11 To review any issue referred to it by the Chief Executive or a Director, or any Council body; and
- 2.2.1.15 To consider the Council's arrangements for corporate governance and agreeing necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice.

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	n/a
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 In March 2010, the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee requested a review into Peterborough City Council's use of consultants. A cross-party review group was established to undertake this work on behalf of the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.2 The report from the Consultancy Review Group was issued in March 2011. Scrutiny also recommended that on-going monitoring of the use of consultants should fall to Audit Committee. Audit Committee considered this role at their meeting of 26 March 2012.
- 4.3 A further report, outlining the information requested, was discussed at the meeting of 5 November 2012. Further updates have been considered at subsequent meetings, continuing the regular reporting to Audit Committee.
- 4.4 The expenditure for the last ten full years, plus in current year to date is shown below.

	Total £m
2009-10	8.5
2010-11	6.4
2011-12	5.4
2012-13	4.3
2013-14	4.5
2014-15	3.1
2015-16	2.5
2016-17	3.0
2017-18	2.4
2018-19	2.7
2019-20	4.5
2020-21 (first 9 months)	1.2



4.5 For consistency the reported expenditure includes that on contracts for services where the supplier meets the procurement classification of consultancy. The first nine months of 2020-21 show costs of £1.2m, though while this might suggest a 12 month cost of £1.6m there is likely to be some delay in costs being accounted for, and an outturn of >£2m is likely. The full final outturn position will be reported after April 2021. Costs to date are detailed in Appendix 1.

4.6 The Council also employs Agency staff through a number of Contracts. The spend for the past 4 financial years on Agency has been:

- 2016/17 - £6.3m
- 2017/18 - £6.5m
- 2018/19 - £8.8m
- 2019/20 - £6.4m
- 2020/21 first nine months - £2.4m

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 Audit Committee considered options for how they wish to monitor use of consultants in the future at their meeting of 26 March 2012. Subsequent discussions at the meetings referred to have refined the information they wish to monitor.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 That Audit Committee consider the update report on the use of consultants.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 The recommendations are in line with the recommendations of Scrutiny, and the view of Audit Committee in undertaking this role.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 Audit Committee considered options for how they wish to monitor use of consultants in the future at their meeting of 26 March 2012..

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 The report sets out the costs of consultants and agency staff.

Legal Implications

9.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Equalities Implications

9.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

Carbon Implications

9.4 There are no carbon implications arising from this report.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- Consultancy Review Report, March 2011;
- Report to Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee, 8 November 2011;
- Report to Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee, 6 March 2012;
- Reports to Cabinet and Audit Committee 26 March 2012;
- Reports to Audit Committee of 5 November 2012; 4 February 2013;
- Report to Audit Committee of 4 November 2013;
- Report to Audit Committee of 3 November 2014 and supplementary report to Audit Committee of 2 February 2015;
- Report to Audit Committee of 9 November 2015
- Report to Audit Committee of 22 November 2016
- Reports to Audit Committee of 19 November 2018; 11 February 2019
- Reports to Audit Committee of 15 July 2019; 16 September 2019; 18 November 2019; 27 January 2020
- Report to Audit Committee 14 September 2020; 16 November 2020

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 - list of companies used during the period 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2020 with summary of purpose of engagement.

**Appendix 1 - List of companies with Summary
2020/21 (April – 30 December 2020)**

Supplier Name	Initiative	Amount
3DReid Birmingham Ltd	Feasibility design city centre regeneration project	16,000.00
Allen Lane	Housing accountant / support to Finance change management	102,379.56
Arcus Global Ltd	Integration work to the new payment portal	2,709.50
Cambridgeshire County Council	Adult Social Care consultancy 76k; ICT & contract exit support 67k	143,559.58
Campbell Tickell Ltd	Interim Housing Director	142,843.75
Civica UK Limited	Regulatory Services (Taxi) technical support	4,000.00
Eddisons Commercial Ltd t/a Barker Storey Matthews	Viability assessment regeneration project	9,500.00
Fathom Consultancy Solutions Ltd	Review of the future market place in leisure	3,890.63
Fenland District Council	Shared CCTV service management costs	17,173.69
Gemini Consultants Ltd	Termination of Local Authority Mortgage Administration	645.00
Grant Thornton UK LLP	Financial Improvement Programme, Lean Cost Structure	106,081.97
Housing Partners Ltd	ICT strategy	11,361.50
Imperial Civil Enforcement Solutions Limited	ICT support	3,400.00
Inform CPI Ltd	RV Finder	10,980.00
Liz Holmes Consultancy	Phonics training (schools standards)	1,850.00
NCVO National Council for Voluntary Org.	Commissioning Team	1,250.00
No5 Barrister Chambers Ltd	Legal support	650.00
NPS Peterborough Ltd	Property Support	105,622.80
Penna Plc	Interim Development Director	86,775.00
Penny O'Shea	Examination of Glinton Neighbourhood Plan	3,368.60
Permanent Futures Ltd	Development consultant for Towns Fund	84,930.00
Quadrant Security Group Ltd	CCTV relocation project	4,830.00
RJW Associates Ltd	Peterborough Safeguarding Board	11,049.12
Serco Ltd	ICT Project support	262,478.61
Shelton Development Services Ltd	Housing Needs development consultancy	1,300.00

SQW Limited	Advice on structure of investment plan	1,823.00
Tamar Communications Ltd	Finance change management support	36,177.00
Valuation Office Agency	Viability advice regarding planning application	1,000.00
Vero HR Ltd	HR support - Joint Consultative Forum	2,333.75
Vivacity Culture and Leisure	Abortive prior year costs in relation to Great Eastern Run	5,425.00
2020/21 Total for April 2020-December 2020		£1,185,388.06

