

<b>SUSTAINABLE GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 3</b>
<b>23 MARCH 2011</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## **Report of Councillors Lane, North and Sandford**

**Contact Officer(s) – Louise Tyers, Scrutiny Manager**

**Contact Details – (01733) 452284 or email [louise.tyers@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:louise.tyers@peterborough.gov.uk)**

### **REVIEW OF THE USE OF CONSULTANTS**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To consider the final report from the review of the use of consultants and if felt appropriate to refer its recommendations to the Cabinet.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To consider and comment on the review of the use of consultants.
- 2.2 To refer the recommendations from the review to the Cabinet for consideration.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At a meeting of the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee on 14 January 2010, where the proposed Council budget was discussed, the subject of use of consultants arose. It was agreed that the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee be recommended to undertake an in-depth scrutiny review into the cost and effectiveness of the Council's use of consultants and to make recommendations on the future use of consultants by the Council to inform the development of budgets in future years. At its meeting on the 18 January 2010, the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee produced a list of questions which it asked to be answered.
- 3.2 On the 15 March 2010, the Cabinet Member for Resources delivered a report on the use of consultants to the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee. Following this report and subsequent discussion, the Committee established a task and finish group to review the Council's use of consultants and report back on its findings and recommendations.
- 3.3 In line with protocol, the Scrutiny Manager wrote to the Group Secretaries seeking nomination for the review. Councillors Lane, North, and Sandford were put forward by their relevant groups.
- 3.4 An interim report on progress with the review was considered by the Committee at its meeting on 9 November 2010.

#### **4. IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Any implications will be contained within the Review Group's final report.

#### **5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

- 5.1 As detailed in the Review Group's final report.

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