

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

**AGENDA ITEM 3**

## AD-HOC SCRUTINY PANEL

**5 JANUARY 2016**

### COUNCIL USE OF CONSULTANTS

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel with background information in relation to the new scrutiny topic of the Council's use of consultants. The scrutiny panel's agreed work programme for 2015-16 includes an examination of this topic.
2. Paul Stephens, the Council's Head of Performance and Partnership will be present at the meeting to present an overview and introduction on this subject and answer Members' questions.
3. The scrutiny panel is asked to identify areas that it wishes to examine and where it wishes to receive further information. Consultation with the Chair of the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel has highlighted the following as areas for possible initial discussion:
  - To examine whether the Council has a policy on the use of consultants.
  - To determine how consultants are engaged and for what projects/service areas.
  - To examine costs.
  - To consider how projects are managed and objectives achieved.
4. The above list is not exhaustive and scrutiny panel Members will be asked to consider and confirm areas for examination. It is intended that draft terms of reference will then be submitted to the panel's next meeting for agreement, as well as further information on the scrutiny topic.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

5. It is recommended that the scrutiny panel considers the issues highlighted at the meeting and determines how it wishes to proceed with investigation of this topic.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6. The following background papers were used in preparing this report:
  - Report to Overview and Scrutiny Board - 28 July 2015: 'Work Programme 2015/16.'

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