

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 4

AD-HOC SCRUTINY PANEL

25 FEBRUARY 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">COUNCIL USE OF CONSULTANTS - FURTHER INFORMATION</p>
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PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide further information in respect of the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel's investigation of the Council's use of consultants.

BACKGROUND

2. The scrutiny panel's agreed terms of reference for its investigation are as follows:
 - a) To investigate the process of how consultants are engaged and for what projects/service areas.
 - b) To examine the level of consultant usage in the Council and the costs involved.
 - c) To consider how projects involving consultants are managed and objectives achieved.
 - d) To examine work that is being undertaken by the North East Purchasing Organisation (NEPO) in respect of the use of consultants by local authorities regionally.
3. At the panel's last meeting (26 January 2016) information was received in respect of term of reference (d) above. The panel had previously considered an overview of the topic and identified areas that it wished to explore in detail.
4. With regard to term of reference (b) above, work is ongoing to determine how information regarding Council spend on consultants can be best collated. An update will be provided at the scrutiny panel meeting.
5. In respect of terms of reference (a) and (c), and further to discussions at the last meeting, officers have been invited from Council service areas to provide information. Richenda Broad, Executive Director Wellbeing, Care & Learning and Richard Dowson, Head of Economic Growth, Economic Development and Communities, will be present at the scrutiny panel meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

6. It is recommended that the submitted information is considered by the panel for inclusion in its final report on this subject.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

7. The following background papers were used in preparing this report:
 - Report to, and minutes of, the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel meetings held on 5 and 26 January 2016.

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