

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM 4

### AD-HOC SCRUTINY PANEL

24 MARCH 2016

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COUNCIL USE OF CONSULTANTS - FURTHER INFORMATION</b></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 (25 February 2016) information was received in respect of terms of reference at (a) and (d) above. Details of this information and the panel's deliberations are shown in the minutes of the meeting.
4. At the meeting, Members also indicated that it could be useful to obtain some information from other local authorities in respect of their policies and procedures concerning the use of consultants. A briefing note containing that information is currently being finalised and will be circulated to the scrutiny panel prior to the meeting.
5. With regard to term of reference at (b) above, work is ongoing to gather the information requested by the scrutiny panel. The information is currently being collated and it is hoped that it can be provided in advance of the scrutiny panel meeting.

6. Relevant officers have been invited to attend the scrutiny panel and will update the position at the meeting.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8. The following background papers were used in preparing this report:
  - Report to, and minutes of, the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 24 February 2016.

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