

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM 7(g)

### OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

21 APRIL 2016

#### AD-HOC SCRUTINY PANEL - PROGRESS REPORT

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the work of the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel.

#### BACKGROUND

2. The Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel is currently investigating the Council's use of consultants.
3. The scrutiny panel last met on 24 March 2016 and considered final evidence on the above topic. Information was submitted concerning other local authorities' approach to the use of consultants, locally and nationally and giving examples of various approaches taken.
4. Information was also submitted in respect of ongoing work to identify the costs of consultant usage across the authority. The panel heard that a system is now being put in place to gather/collate the required information. A breakdown of consultant costs relating to Outcome Area 1 (of the change Programme) - Economic Growth - was circulated to the panel and it was advised that it is envisaged that the same exercise will now be completed for all Outcome Areas.
5. The next meeting of the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel will be held on 22 April 2016 and will consider a draft final report on its findings.

#### RECOMMENDATION

6. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the content of the report and the updated position.

#### BACKGROUND PAPERS

7. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Agenda and meeting papers - Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel - 24 March 2016.

**COUNCILLOR JEAN SHARROCKS**

**CHAIR - AD-HOC SCRUTINY PANEL**

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