



Committee and Date

Audit Committee

20 September 2011

10.00am

Item

12

Public

CONSULTANTS 2010/11

Responsible Officer Rachel Musson

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1. Summary

Members requested a report outlining the amount spent on consultants and an explanation of the benefits of contracting consultants in the main spending areas. This followed the receipt of the Revenue Outturn 2010/11 report of the Section 151 Officer at the June Audit Committee

During 2010/11 £702,530 was spent on consultants, a breakdown of which appears in the main body of this report. The main benefits delivered from these contracts included information knowledge and advice in areas that the Council does not readily have available.

2. Recommendations

The Committee are asked to consider and endorse, with or without comment, the contents of this report.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 The use of consultants allows the Council to purchase specialist advice and support on a time limited basis to inform current projects. This is done where the knowledge and skills are not readily available within the Council, or to provide interim cover whilst the appropriate knowledge and skills are being established or recruited to.

3.2 The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the procurement of consultants is administered in line with the Council's contracting requirements.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 Consultancy costs are met from within approved budgets.

5. Background

5.1 The Revenue Outturn Report 2010/11 presented to the June Committee provided a RAGBY Report which highlighted the main issues that are subject to corporate focus. Amongst these Human Resources and Development reported an overspend and reported that:

“The majority of this overspend relates to consultant costs incurred in relation to the senior management restructure and the assessment process for phase 1.”

Following which Audit Committee Members have requested a report on total consultancy costs for 2010/11 and the benefits from such contracts.

6. Conclusions

6.1 The following table provides a high level split of the spend on consultants for 2010/11

Area of spend	Spend £	Benefit(s) of consultancy
Adult Social Care Transformation Project	252,090	Review of services funded externally and within budget
Organisation Change	84,135	Information, knowledge and support in designing the Transformation Project
Human Resources	65,000	Creation of the “Places” grouping in the New Operating Model, advice on processes around the redeployment of staff and performance management
Northern ,Central & Southern Areas Planning Enforcement	79,515	Planning consultants advice
Shropshire Waste Partnership	38,830	Technical issues e.g. legal advice
Shared Services Consultancy	23,400	Support in identifying the shaping, benefits & outcomes
Historic Environment	21,765	Specialist site investigation-externally funded

Other: 21 individual costs under £20k	137,795	Mainly externally funded initiatives, covering areas such as anti-social behaviour, housing private sector initiatives and bio-digesters
TOTAL 2010/11	702,530	

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

SAMIS reports on consultancy

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Keith Barrow (Leader of the Council) and Brian Williams Chairman of Audit Committee

Local Member: N/A

Appendices: