

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
20 June 2024
Report by Clerk
CONSULTANCY EXPENDITURE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. This report provides feedback on consultancy expenditure following the end of the 2023/24 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

2. It is recommended that the Committee:-
- (a) consider the feedback provided and discuss if any further action is to be taken regarding that; and
 - (b) otherwise, note that a further report on such expenditure will be submitted to the Committee after the end of the 2024/25 financial year.

CONSULTANCY EXPENDITURE AND RELATED LOG

3. Reflecting the interest the Committee has taken over a number of years in the extent to which consultants have been used within the Council, in January 2019 the Committee agreed, at the end of the 2019/20 financial year, to review the content of the log the Council had agreed to establish in relation to the appointment of consultants and related issues. The first such report on this issue ([Consultancy Expenditure and Related Log](#)), which included a summary of historical discussions on consultancy expenditure by the Committee, was submitted to the Committee in June 2020.

4. Amongst other things, the report considered in June 2020 referred to concerns the then Chair had expressed at the Council meeting in October 2018, and subsequent Audit and Scrutiny Committee meeting, on the extent to which external consultants were being used by the authority, following which the Committee had agreed to look at the level of and reasons for such expenditure; and which consultants had been used. Reference was also made in the same report to some detailed work the Committee had progressed during the previous Administration on consultancy expenditure, reasons for that and the outcome.

5. The report also explained that in December 2018 the Council had agreed to reduce the threshold for allowing directors to appoint consultants under Contract Standing Orders from £50k to £10k, and to approve related logging arrangements. In addition to providing information on the consultancy log for 2019/20, the June 2020 report confirmed that the log was published on the corporate procurement section of the Council's website and updated on a 6-monthly basis.

6. When the Committee considered the report on consultancy costs in June 2020, it was agreed that a report on such expenditure be submitted to the Committee annually after the end of each financial year. Such a report has been submitted annually since then.

7. In April 2021, the Committee agreed that when future such reports were provided, feedback on consultancy should be grouped by department and section for ease of review. Subsequently, also for ease of review, in June 2022 and May 2023 respectively, the Committee requested that the feedback provided be modified slightly to clarify if any costs listed would not ultimately be met by the Council but rather a third party, and to confirm the total annual cost and total annual net cost of consultancy to the Council. A copy of the log is attached.

RECOMMENDATIONS

8. It is recommended that the Committee:-
- (a) consider the feedback provided and discuss if any further action is to be taken regarding that; and
 - (b) otherwise, note that a further report on such expenditure will be submitted to the Committee after the end of the 2024/25 financial year.

Local Government Access to Information Act 1985

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Background Papers:-

1. Information provided by departments on the use and costs of consultants in 2013/14 and 2014/15 in accordance with the definition agreed by the Committee at the time
2. Reports submitted to the Committee on its previous work on consultants, including the meetings of the committee held on March 2016, January 2019, June 2020, April 2021, June 2022 and May 2023.
3. Consultancy Log on Council Website

CONSULTANCY SPEND FOR 1 APRIL 2023 - 31 March 2024											
Description of the services to be provided	Rationale for appointment	Supplier Name	Town/City	Contract Award Sum	Actual spend incurred	Cost being met by Third Party i.e. Scot Gov, Sustrans etc - detail below	Start date	End Date	Department	Section	Dept Contact Name
Survey work for Bellrock handing back Mearns PS and St Ninians HS to ERC	Contract: Hub West Territory Partnering Agreement.	HUB West Scotland Surveying Services	Glasgow	£21,725.00	£21,725.00	N/A	01/06/2023	31/03/2024	Education	Schools	Mark Ratter
Consultancy Services - Glen Family Centre	Specialist Support.	Hub West Scotland	Glasgow	£750.00	£750.00	N/A	01/04/2023	31/03/2024	Education	Schools	Joe McCaig
Preparation of various Education databases / Assessment timetabling	Specialist Projects.	Robert Tennant	Dunoon	£15,973.00	£15,780.95	N/A	01/10/2023	31/03/2024	Education	Central	Janice Collins
Quantity Surveying Services	Project advice.	Storrier Donaldson	Glasgow	£1,018.00	£1,018.00	N/A	30/06/2023	30/06/2023	Education	Schools	Joe McCaig
Completion of Strategic Environmental Assessment for Get to Zero Action Plan	Specialist knowledge of Strategic Environmental Assessment.	LUC	Edinburgh	£28,821	£28,821	Funded from Get to Zero Fund	19/04/2022	31/08/2023	Environment	Get to Zero	Andy Dick
Knowledge Partnership Large Scale Tenants Survey	QQ Award for Consultancy Services, Large Scale Tenant Satisfaction Survey.	Knowledge Partnership	Edinburgh	£8,485.00	£8,485.00	N/A	05/09/2023	21/02/2024	Environment	Housing Services	Suzanne Conlin
Performance & Governance Review	Performance & Governance Review	Olga Clayton	Paisley	£5,075.00	£5,075.00	N/A	21/09/2023	30/11/2023	Environment	Directorate	Caित्रiona McAuley
Neilston Learning Campus Site Investigation	External site survey re : inv. any subssoil contamination risk.	Johnson, Poole & Bloomer Ltd.	Glasgow	£1,100.00	£1,100.00	N/A	01/05/2023	31/05/2023	Environment	Major Capital Projects	Steven Renwick
Neilston Learning Campus - To enable RIBA stages 5 and 6	BIM Information Management.	BakerHicks Ltd	Glasgow	£11,280.00	£1,210.00	N/A	01/01/2021	01/06/2024	Environment	Major Capital Projects	Steven Renwick
Employers Agent/Quantity Surveying Services for Council New Build	Employers agent/quantity surveying services for council new build.	Langmuir & Hay	Glasgow	£305,447.46	£98,650.03	N/A	01/06/2020	01/06/2024	Environment	Housing Services	Suzanne Conlin
Provision of presentation drawings for design for A77 Ph. 2 Cycle Path.	To assist with our responses to inquiries from public, Elected Members and funders. Mott MacDonald were the original designers, only they could carry out the work due to proprietary nature.	Mott MacDonald	Newton Mearns	£595.00	£595.00	S.P.T.	01 May '23	30 June '23	Environment	STS	Alan Reid
ATC Traffic Surveys (speed/volume) through East Renfrewshire.	To monitor traffic speeds and volume over a 3-year period.	Nationwide Data	East Renfrewshire	£49,999.00	£3,840.00	No	01/05/2023	01/11/2024	Environment	STS	Laurence Liu
18-month programme with seven cycling promotional campaigns and events to be held throughout East Renfrewshire	To encourage cycling throughout East Renfrewshire.	Love to Ride	East Renfrewshire	£49,720.00	£18,147.00	Paths for All (SCSP)	01/06/2023	01/09/2024	Environment	STS	Laurence Liu
RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Stage 0-2 from initial concept; public consultation to Concept Design for five active travel projects	Progress projects through the Sustrans Places for Everyone programme.	Atkins	Glasgow	£360,111.72	£0.00	Sustrans	02/10/2023	31/03/2024	Environment	STS	Richard Hughes
East Renfrewshire Local Transport Strategy - Main Issues Consultation - Additional Engagement	Facilitate follow up community engagement to support refreshed Local Transport Strategy.	Voluntary Action	Barrhead	£4,000.00	£0.00	Sustrans	13/09/2023	31/03/2024	Environment	STS	John Shelton
Contract for Transport Planners Specialist Consultants	to resource the delivery of Grant Funded Active and Sustainable Travel projects(Smarter Choices Smarter Places, Cycling Walking Safer Routes, EV Infrastructure Fund).	Mott MacDonald	East Renfrewshire	£100,000.00	£19,947.48	Paths for All (SCSP)	01/04/2023	31/03/2024	Environment	STS	Richard Hughes
Barrhead Office Refurbishment - Design Development to RIBA Stage 4	Continuation of previous appointment for Stage 2 design through Teritorial Partnership Agreement to provide design and PM services to deliver the refurbishment of the Barrhead Office.	HubWest Scotland	Glasgow	£105,573.50	£0.00	N/A	28/06/2023	01/07/2024	ENV	Strategic Services	Alastair Ross
Community Transport Scoping Study	Refreshed local transport strategy.	Community Transport Association	East Renfrewshire	£3,125.00	£0.00	Sustrans	05/02/2024	31/03/2024	ENV	STS	John Shelton
Shared Transport Scoping Study	Refreshed local transport strategy.	ComoUK	East Renfrewshire	£4,000.00	£0.00	Sustrans	05/02/2024	31/03/2024	ENV	STS	John Shelton
Decarboniation Pathway Scoping & Baseline	Refreshed local transport strategy.	WSP UK Ltd	East Renfrewshire	£5,000.00	£0.00	Sustrans	05/02/2024	31/03/2024	ENV	STS	John Shelton
Parking & Kerbside Management Scoping Study	Refreshed local transport strategy.	Mott MacDonald	East Renfrewshire	£5,480.00	£0.00	Sustrans	05/02/2024	31/03/2024	ENV	STS	John Shelton
Major Capital Project Management Resource	Provision of consultancy resource to lead and manage major capital projects.	Turner & Townsend	East Renfrewshire	£54,503.00	£27,203.00	N/A	16/01/2024	01/07/2024	ENV	Major Capital Projects	Caित्रiona McAuley
Eastwood Leisure Centre - Strategic Support Partnering Services.	Ongoing design & project management service to deliver Eastwood Leisure Centre.	HUB West Scotland	Glasgow	£2,575,054.00	£787,627.00	N/A	01/09/2023	30/04/2025	ENV	Major Capital Projects	Steven Renwick
Consultant Structural / Civil Engineer - Various Education Establishments.	Provision of civil and structural pre and post contract consultancy services.	RPS Consulting Services	Abbingdon	£14,928.00	£14,928.00	N/A	01/02/2024	31/07/2024	ENV	Major Capital Projects	Steven Renwick
Neilston Learning Campus - Dashboard Development Services.	Digital Twin Dashboard. Agreement with SFT to implement design and build dashboard.	Acuma Solutions Limited	Stockport	£20,831.00	£20,822.53	SFT	01/09/2023	20/12/2023	ENV	Major Capital Projects	Steven Renwick
Consultant to support DCE Team with Integrated unified Communication System for Customer Contact Centre & Provide Professional Mentoring Support	Short term expertise required QQ 21 -22 -042.	Gunn Stewart Solutions	Glasgow	£49,999.00	£2,600 (Oct 23 - Mar 24)	N/A	01/11/2019	31/03/2024	BOP	Customer Services	Sharon Dick

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