

**Budget Formulation Scrutiny Review Group  
Cabinet Response to Scrutiny Report**

<p><b>Scrutiny Committee: Budget Formulation Scrutiny Review Group</b></p> <p><b>Report: Scrutiny Review of the Use of Consultants</b></p> <p><b>Lead Scrutiny Member: Cllr. Clive Mollett</b></p> <p><b>Lead Scrutiny Officer: Fiona Bottrill</b></p> <p><b>Cabinet Member: Cllr. Sean Kelly</b></p> <p><b>Response prepared by: Sarah Bass</b></p> <p><b>Date of Cabinet meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011</b></p>			
Scrutiny Recommendation	Response and summary of action being taken to implement, or reason for rejection	Date by which action will be taken	Person responsible for action (name and title)
<p><u>Recommendation 1</u> Members welcomed the introduction of the system to approve the use of consultants.</p> <p>In line with the requirement for Council expenditure to be published the information on use of consultants should be published on the council's website. It is important that local people understand the work of the Council and the services we provide and contracts we hold with other service providers. The information we provide about our services and contracts should be user friendly and accessible to the public.</p>	<p>Consultants commissioned over the value of £500 already appear on the Council's website under the Transparency protocol.</p> <p>All tendering opportunities are now advertised on the Shropshire Chamber of Commerce's Business Network Online as part of the Council's Sustainable Procurement programme</p> <p>A current list of contracts already in place will be posted on the transparency page in March</p>	<p>March 2011</p>	<p>Head of Governance</p>



<u>Recommendation 2</u> The process to approve the use of consultants should include extensions to existing contracts.	This will be included in the process and communicated via the intranet and eNews This will apply to any 'additional requirements' to current consultants contracts	March 2011	Service Review Steering Group/Sarah Bass
<u>Recommendation 3</u> The outcomes of the review of procurement should be reported to the CFEC Scrutiny Committee	The Procurement Review findings can be shared with Scrutiny at a future date	May 2011	Service Review Steering Group/Sarah Bass
<u>Recommendation 4</u> The review of procurement should establish a system that can demonstrate the improved effectiveness of new procurement arrangements	As above, the work plan will be governed by the Service Review Steering Group. This group will manage the work streams reviewing key contracts and relationships with suppliers to ensure they are providing value for money. Savings targets will be set wherever possible and actual performance will be monitored as part of the budget management process.	Sept 2011	Service Review Steering Group/Sarah Bass