



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Central & Corporate Functions)

Date: 11th January 2010

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry - Consultant Engagement – Session Three

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting on 7th December 2009 Members noted that the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs) is working on ways to ensure greater improvement in the hiring of consultants and that the Yorkshire and Humberside RIEP is currently working on developing a set of organisational conditions they would consider constitutes best practice.
- 1.2 It was further noted that the Chief Procurement Officer represents the Council and the Yorkshire and Humber region on the 'Professional Services' CCB looking at the procurement of consultancy and agency staff. As well as identifying best practice and ways to control spend in these areas – known as 'Demand Management' – the Board also looks at opportunities for collaboration and efficiency/improvements in each area.
- 1.3 In progressing this Inquiry, the Board agreed that the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development, in consultation with the Chair, select 4 contracts (2 high value and 2 low value) for more detailed investigation and reporting back to the Board, to ascertain whether the Council's current arrangements do coincide with the best practice guidelines developed by RIEP.
- 1.4 Whilst this work is underway the Board should note the work carried out by internal audit in this area, which complements the work of Scrutiny. A note of the work undertaken by internal audit is attached as appendix 1 Officers will be in attendance to answer any questions from Members.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 Members are asked to;

- (i) Consider the work undertaken by internal audit and its relevance to the current Scrutiny Inquiry.