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## PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Fiona Smith

12 November 2020

Dear Fiona Smith

### Freedom of Information Act 2000, Reference: FOI-7225-2020

The council has completed its search relating to your request about Professional Services procurement received on Thu, 15 Oct 2020.

#### Request

I am writing to ask that you please provide me with the spend for your Professional Services procurement at the Authority, by which I mean the procurement of projects and consultancy through Statement of Work excluding temporary agency staff.

- What have you spent on Professional Services over the last 12 months?
- What did the authority spend on professional Services Between April 2019 and March 2020?
- Between April 2019 and March 2020, which categories had the highest level of spend throughout that period?
- Has the authority planned any large construction-based projects over the next two years?
- If you have got construction projects planned, please could you provide project details, budget and timeframes?
- What is the Councils current process to engage with professional service providers? Please could you provide details of the process and name third parties if they are being used.

#### Response

The council does hold information within the definition of your request.

- What have you spent on Professional Services over the last 12 months?

Over the last 12 months - £7.886m

- What did the authority spend on professional Services Between April 2019 and March 2020?

Between April 2019 and March 2020 - £9.007m

• Between April 2019 and March 2020, which categories had the highest level of spend throughout that period?

County Council (excluding Schools) expenditure in 2019/20 on Other Professional fees/Services was £8.316m.

The breakdown of which is as follows:-

Description

£

MANAGEMENT & ADMIN FEES

495,262.97

LECTURERS FEES

3,032.10

CONSULTANTS FEES

939,233.86

EXPERT FEES (EXCL LEGAL)

659,740.42

LABORATORY TEST FEES

116,148.33

LEGAL/COUNSELS/SOLICITORS FEES

430,241.73

EXT L&D CONSULTANTS FEES

49,312.50

OTHR PYTS TO INSTITUTIONS

1,593,816.02

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL SERV

2,165,767.15

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

1,085,044.90

LGPS IAS19 ACTUARY COSTS

1,545.00

EXAM FEES SCHOOLS

44,839.71

BODY REMOVAL UNDERTAKERS FEES

197,726.01

## MORTUARY & POST MORTEM FEES

533,104.05

## OFFICE REMOVAL EXPENSES

1,841.50

Totals:-

8,316,656.25

The Council has a professional services framework through which it procures professional services largely to support our Capital Programme. Professional services supporting the delivery of the capital programme are not included in the above figure but are capital expenditure, professional services form part of the cost of each scheme, they are not recorded separately within the Councils financial system.

- Has the authority planned any large construction-based projects over the next two years?

Copy of pipeline attached as published to the Council's framework supply chain in August 2020

- If you have got construction projects planned, please could you provide project details and timeframes?

The Council approves its five year Capital Programme annually as part of the Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan process in February. During the year and most recently at its meeting on the 9th September, Council and Cabinet approve updates to the programme. The 2020-2025 Programme at 24th September 2020 totalled £469.372m and includes a number of schemes to be delivered for the Council, including infrastructure.

Copy of pipeline attached as published to the Council's framework supply chain in August 2020

- What is the Councils current process to engage with professional service providers? Please could you provide details of the process and name third parties if they are being used.

The current Professional Services Framework comprises of 18 different consultants across 4 Lots covering Architecture, Civil Engineers, Building Surveyors and Infrastructure Planning <https://procontract.due-north.com/ContractsRegister/ViewContractDetail> is due to expire in 2022. Should the Council decide to procure another similar framework, the tender opportunity will be advertised via The Chest <https://www.the-chest.org.uk/>

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If you have any issues relating to this letter you should attempt to resolve them, in the first instance, with the council, by requesting an Internal Review. If you would like to request a Review please contact the Information Governance Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Further information can be found on the council's website: <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/council-democracy/accesstoinformation/internalreviewscomplaints.asp>

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Team