

**Requested information:**

Professional Services Procurement Spend

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:**

Please note that to provide a response to your request has been estimated to take the Council in excess of 18 hours (2.5 days).

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 recognises that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if the process of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit – as set by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees Charges) Regulations 2004 this is 18 hours. For requests which will exceed 18 hours to administer, by which is meant:

- (a) determining whether it holds the information,
- (b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,
- (c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information, and
- (d) extracting the information from a document containing it,

the authority may refuse the request or levy a charge at £25 per hour for staff time.

Although the Council aims to be transparent and accountable to the public, we must balance this against the large amount of officer time that would be used in

responding to such large requests. Therefore, based on the amount of time it would take to fulfil your request, we are refusing it under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. If however you are able to refine your request, we may be able to assist.