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| **RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELH:\My Documents\cclogojpeg.jpg** |

***Panel Report***

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| **Public** | |
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| **Date of Meeting:** | **29th July 2010** |
| Title: | **USE OF CONSULTANTS TASK & FINISH GROUP** |
| Report of: | **Cllr Hendry, Chair of Task and Finish Group** |
| Report reference: | **OS17/10** |

**Summary:**

This report is to update Members of ROSP on the current position regarding the Use of Consultants Task and Finish Group and invites Members to comment on the proposals to temporary suspend the Task Groups work.

**Recommendations:**

**That Members approve the proposal that the Task and Finish Group temporary suspend their scrutiny review until staff are transferred from Carlisle Renaissance to the City Council.**

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| **Contact Officer:** | Nicola Edwards  Scrutiny Officer | **Ext:** | 7122 |
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1. **Background**
   1. A Task Group made up of Cllrs Allison, Hendry and Layden was commissioned by the Resources O&S Panel in October 2009 to undertake a review on the Council’s Use of Consultants.
   2. A report from the Task Group was approved for referral to the Executive by Members of this Panel in May 2010 and was subsequently presented to the Executive in July 2010. Panel Members may recall that the Task group were concerned about the expenditure by Carlisle Renaissance on consultants.
   3. The Task Group therefore commenced a second part of the review specifically on expenditure relating to Carlisle Renaissance in May 2010. The Terms of Reference for this part of the Review can be found at Appendix 1.
   4. Similarly to the first part of the review, the Task Group firstly undertook a paper exercise scrutinising all the expenditure relating to the cost centre code 4017. With the support of the Efficiency Manager and the Scrutiny Officer, Members were able to identify the details of the expenditure from April 2008 to March 2010.
   5. Members intended to hold a witness session with the Director, Carlisle Renaissance as the next part of their review as they had developed further lines of enquiry that they wished to follow.
   6. In particular, the Task Group wished to further investigate the expenditure relating specifically to Caldew Riverside, City Centre Transformational sites and the Carlisle Orbital Relief Road.

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| **Project** | **Expenditure 2008/09 (excluding VAT)** | **Expenditure 2009/10 (excluding VAT)** | **Total** |
| **Total Expenditure to code 4017** | **523,574** | **699,192** | **1,222,766** |
| Caldew Riverside | 22,629 | 371,682 | 394,311 |
| Market analysis and Development Services for City Centre Transformational Sites | 367,974 |  | 367,974 |
| Payments to Cumbria CC re work undertaken by Capita on Carlisle Orbital Relief Road etc |  | 219,136 | 219,136 |

* 1. Events have taken over the work of the Task Group, on 26th June 2010 the Carlisle Renaissance Board was disbanded and the Executive have agreed in principal that Carlisle Renaissance staff will be transferred back to the City Council.
  2. The Task Group therefore decided that it was not timely to continue with the scrutiny at this particular time and wished to postpone this work until the staff are transferred.

**APPENDIX 1**

Use of Consultants Task and Finish Group

The task and finish group has been set up to look at the Authority’s Use of Consultants. During the course of the review Members raised concerns about the amount of expenditure relating to the commissioning of consultants by Carlisle Renaissance. Therefore it was proposed that the Task Group undertake a second scrutiny exclusively on this issue.

# Membership

The members of the group are:

* Councillor Allison – Resources
* Councillor Hendry – Resources (Chair of Task and Finish Group)
* Councillor Layden – Resources

They will be supported and guided by officers from the Scrutiny Team.

# Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the group are suggested as:

* To identify expenditure by Carlisle Renaissance on consultants for the years 2008/09 and 2009/10.
* To identify the context of when and why consultants are used.
* To identify outcomes following the commissioning of consultants.
* To investigate whether set procedures are followed to procure consultants
* To investigate any other related issues that come to light during the course of the review.

A report on the decisions of the task and finish group will then form the basis for recommendations to the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel to take back to the Executive and agree, prior to the next round of reporting to Panels.